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IN THE BEGINNING...

A Journey Through the Jundland Wastes

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Alderaan, published by Jeff Johnson out of Ohio, was the first SW letterzine. The premier issue was only 6 pages long (including mailing information, classified ads, an editorial and product reviews) and had 9 letters, some only one paragraph in length.

Those first, short letters discussed the relevance of SW as opposed to the relevance of ST, with side trips into whether women should be interested in what was essentially a boy's adventure flick, the derivative nature of SW as opposed to the more imaginative SF, and whether SW promoted the military more than ST. The LoCs also touched on Leia's status (prize or bossy, unfeminine person), and the question of just who is Ben Kenobi?

By the second issue the first SW fanzine reviews appeared. *Hyperspace*, *SW Filks*, *Skywalker* and *Against the Sith* were featured. The first was a small, 6 page crudzine; the second offered SW filks; and the last two were the first story-oriented SW fanzines available to fans (which one of them was the absolutely first storyzine is still debatable).

The number of letters to *Alderaan* increased in the second issue. Although many light-hearted subjects were

discussed, such as the differences between the 70mm and 35mm prints and the bloopers in each, it was clear by this issue that a serious break between ST fans and SW fans had developed; and the personality of Leia Organa was going to remain controversial for some time to come.

By the time *Alderaan* ceased publication in October 1981, nearly every SW subject that would be discussed in all the years to come -- save the revelations in ROTJ -- had been mentioned at least once in a LoC. Examples: Did Vader choose to do evil, was he tricked into supporting the Empire, or was he simply inattentive? Is what he's doing really evil at all? What is the historical background of the Empire? Is it a legitimate government? What is Leia's status now that the Senate is dissolved? Is it possible to write a female character into a SW story without that character simply representing wish fulfillment on the part of the author, especially if that character has a romantic interest in one of the heroes? Is Han Solo's masculine appeal overshadowing Luke's role as a hero? Is TESB a better film than SW? Who believes Vader is really Luke's father; who doesn't?

Fandom itself also came under inspection. There were

articles on the history of fandom, on whether fan fiction violated copyright regulations, on censorship both by fans and by Lucasfilm, on getting too involved in what is "just a movie", and on the demographics of fandom (just why is media fandom so predominantly female?).

With the release of TESB in May 1980, SW fanzine fandom had reached critical mass. The following three years witnessed an explosion of fannish activity that included -- at its height -- nearly 100 zines available or in planning stages.

Alderaan's subscription list was picked up by *Comlink*, published by Carol Mularski and *Alderaan's* co-editor, Allyson Dyar, but the new zine soon developed into a multi-media letterzine and so dropped out of active SW fandom. In June of 1981, Pat Nussman of Maryland filled the gap with *Jundland Wastes*, a dedicated SW bimonthly letterzine, which she hoped would provide "a forum for the discussion of fan lit, editing and art; for fanzine reviews, critical essays, and LoCs."

JW would publish 16 issues during the 2-1/2 years after the development of TESB and through the revelations of ROTJ. The first 4 issues ran 10 pages each, 6 letters apiece. With issue #5, the size doubled. The zine's length increased to a minimum of 20 pages and only once did the number of letters per magazine drop below 20. More than 50 zines were reviewed, some multiple times due to fannish disagreements with the original opinion; over half of the issues included either formal commentary or critiques of various fan writers.

The JW years were decisive and devisive times in SW fandom. I was an active fan then and took part in the controversies that raged, which means I must write about JW from a "certain point of view." An objective presentation of the JW story could be had by reprinting my subject notes and the statistics per issue, but such an article would not present the flavor of these years at all. Therefor, my commentary will be either prefaced with the common accepted acronym, IMO [i.e., "in my opinion"] or presented in a different typeface.

Although subsequent letterzines have run longer than *Jundland Wastes* and with as full an array of proponents on all sides of current controversies, none has ever matched the diversity of subject matter presented in JW.

IMO, none ever can, no matter the wishes of present or future editors.

Why? Because the illusion of fandom's solidarity that still existed in 1981 supported freedom of expression. For three years, the SW universe presented by ANH had been as solid as any speculation based on mere 2 hours worth of information could be. Fans invented wildly divergent extrapolations of the SW universe from the meager facts and hints presented, but an air of expectation kept any specific characterization from being accepted as

irrefutable. That foundation of shared icons and the recognition of mutual affection allowed a variety of interpretations and interests to flourish. For example, people might judge a story harshly, but any insinuation of heresy regarding character presentation or plot development were as of yet unheard.

Then TESB was released. Part 5 of the SW Saga developed plot lines along new and unchangeable paths; ambiguities of character and action became integral to the story. TESB also attracted the attention of fans who had either not been terribly excited by ANH, or who had actively disliked ANH and only accepted the first movie in light of what was seen as improved TESB definitions. The amount of emotional investment -- and more threatening, the amount of moral investment -- fans placed in the Saga began to affect assessments of noncomplementary interpretations.

Many fans, including myself, thought the disagreements would fade away before mutual enjoyment of the Saga. We did not understand then the deep emotional attachments that had developed to individual interpretations of SW, nor the way the Saga reflected personal commitments to world views; we learned the hard way that equitable discussion is not easy and is sometimes impossible when interpretations, even in as ephemeral an area as fandom, are accepted as evident universal truths.

But -- the worst of the trouble would not blossom in all its ugliness until later fannish forums appeared. For a brief time, reviews, commentary and lively argument flourished. More zines than any one person could read (or afford) filled the presses. SW fandom perceived no limits to the excitement and enjoyment to be found in the Saga.

Stars above, it was a great time to be a fan!

Jundland Wastes, Issue 1, March 1981

The first issue of JW is ten pages long, a quiet beginning with more raw data printed than opinion or letters of comment (LoCs). Nearly 30 fanzines are advertised as available in the classified ads; eight will be published soon; 17 are in the planning stage and request contributions and/or SASEs for information. More startling, there are already 13 different fanzine titles listed as Out of Print.

In her first editorial, Pat Nussman repeats her intent to provide a forum for the discussion of ideas and the exploration of creativity in SW fandom. *Flipping through the pages of the zine before writing this article, I was astonished by how well Pat lived up to that intention. Even after a decade or more, the liveliness of JW is palpable and the industry of the participants is impressive.*

The zine, the projects and practices it notices and comments about, are products of a fandom in its prime, full of energy and excitement.

Fanzine reviews start off the first issue of JW. The fourth issue of the already classic zine, *Skywalker*, is examined, as are *Galactic Flight* #4, the first issue of *Twin Suns*, a zine that quickly joined the top ranks, and *Equal Space*, a light-hearted zine produced by American fans stationed with the U.S. Army in West Germany.

From the first four letters, it is clear that fan fiction has matured past the "ow wow, a new SW story!" phase as people react to what they see as established fanlit practices. Some editors have refused to print stories in which a major character dies. Objections to this subject are voiced as well as simple bewilderment over why such a restriction is necessary. A subsequent letter offers insight into the latter when it questions the legitimacy of violence in stories which seem to exist solely to put the main character in pain/psychic jeopardy, and in subsequent need of rescue and comfort.

A subject familiar from the *Alderaan* days -- fannish hostility toward Leia Organa -- is brought up by a reader and joined to the query: Why are there such strong feelings against Lando? The Vader fans have made the transition between zines as well; one of the first LoCs argues for the man's honor and questions the motives behind fan writers' harsh treatment of the man.

The debate over the legitimacy of the Empire and the hero status of Darth Vader was the first Big Controversy in SW fandom. Those who supported the Empire were articulate writers, well-versed in history; more than one came from a military background and could argue the expediency of battle and politics with aplomb. Their letters and articles shocked many fans. Responses to the radical notion that the Empire was legitimate came close to crossing the line between discourse and personal attack.

Echoing in the disbelief that anyone could not simply accept the Alliance as the good guys was the dawning realization that the assumption of ideological unity that existed in ST fandom did not apply to SW fandom. Political opinions had begun to color fannish reactions, a development for which there were no established etiquette. While there had always been ST fans who felt the Klingons and especially the Romulans received bad press, the presumption that the Federation represented humanity at its best so far was fact for most fans. The Prime Directive as an idea was accepted without question.

Now, however, fandom was presented with a universe where human strove against human, allowing equal species time for radically different ideas. Added to that was the real time release of SW: after the end of the Vietnam war and its attendant protests; after the Watergate scandal that eventually forced Richard Nixon

out of the presidency; many years after the riotous days of the late 60s and early 70s. The idealism that had nurtured the popularity of ST was growing lean as American entered the Reagan years. The country, and even fandom, grew more conservative and more cynical. The argument of "the end justifies the means", which barely existed in ST fandom, began to appear in discussion of the Empire and the Alliance.

For the most part, this controversy remained on abstract levels; few friendships dissolved over discoveries that a fannish friend thought the Empire justified in its destruction of Alderaan.

Accusations of fascist attitudes were Very Politely hedged.

Issue 2, May 1981

Up to 12 pages with the second issue, JW prints its first commentary, an article entitled "Will the Real Darth Vader Stand Up?" by Karen Osman, a staunch Imperialist. Osman explores fanlit versions of Vader concerning his background and how he came to be at odds with the Jedi. She rejects the tendency to use Vader as an easy villain who needs little characterization. Her emphasis is on sympathetic presentations, and what sympathetic aspects exist in stories not supportive of the Dark Lord. She is fascinated to discover a tendency to grant the man mythic grandeur, whether an author approves of Vader or not. Most writers accept the title "lord" as Vader's given social status; many assume he is royal as well as noble, although he is most often ranked as a younger son. There is a Miltonic aura to many of the stories; Vader as the fallen Lucifer, Star of the Morning, is preferred to Vader as venal power broker. Osman also points out in print (for the first time I believe although the matter has been the subject of fannish gossip for years) the apparent sex appeal of the man despite the mask, the menace he presents, or the problems his implied and obvious handicaps present.

Four more zines are reviewed: *Twin Suns* 2, *Tatooine Tribune*, *Facets* 5, and *Millennium* 1. Forty fanzines are either available or on the way; 16 are planned.

The willingness of JW readers to engage each other in discussion is apparent by the response to the first issue's LoCs.

From the inquiries about editorial attitudes toward violence begins a long debate over what defines a "get" story: is it simply one in which the severe injury of a major character (a process that is often presented in great detail) is the only reason for the story, or is it any story in which a major character dies? ST fandom had made the "get" story a major fanlit form as it put its heroes through innumerable physical and mental crises in

continued efforts to "explore character". In SW fandom, Han Solo became the figure of choice for such excursions, partially because his lifestyle put him in neverending danger, partially IMO because Han had developed into the major SW romantic hero and romantic heroes have traditionally Suffered Greatly.

Regarding the questioned editorial policy, one LoC suggests that if editors allow no serious violence and eliminate the possibility of a major character's death, the lack of tension will diminish the quality of stories to the level of TV series plots where continuing characters are never truly threatened and viewer participation lies on a more shallow level because of that fantastic condition.

A response to Lando's lack of popularity cites the difficult situation he finds himself in, caught between an old friend and the defense of his city, which inspires the comment that "moral ambiguity [in characters] is not appreciated [in fandom]."

Vader is defended by a fan who suggests that he may be cruel but he is not sadistic; and many people express support for Leia, no matter the paucity of stories with her as an important, active character. One fan observes that since most Americans know little about politically-active royalty and the demands of state, they can't present Leia's life accurately. Consequently in many stories, Leia's abrupt expectation of obedience sounds more like the demands of a spoiled rich girl (a la the Mel Brooks movie *Spaceballs*), and her youth is used to support an underlying disbelief in the reality of her role as a Senator and rebel authority.

Other characterization problems are mentioned. There is a complaint about stories that present Han Solo in a fairly uneducated light. Pointing out that Han shows good grammar under stress, the suggestion is made that he may have a history grounded in a higher social/educated class than the space equivalent of a truck driver.

A new subject is voiced concerning just what is the "other" Yoda spoke of: a person, an event, a decision?

The SW vs. ST debate that began back in the first issue of *Alderaan* continues with emphasis on the characterization in the two universes. Opinions include the claims that: (1) ST's characters are all heroes while SW's characters are more complex in ambitions, goals, attitude; (2) those who don't like ambiguity aren't into SW (unlike the observation above); and (3) SW characters are at points of choice in their lives, whereas ST characters know where they are going if not all the details of the trip.

A concluding opinion observes that while ST characters say and encourage the audience to believe, *Yes, we can!*, SW asks of its characters (and of its audience), *How would you react in this situation?*

Throughout all the Locs are comments about story

construction and creative inspiration, raised mostly amid critiques of certain writing styles and storylines. The last LoC, from a well-known fan long experienced in ST fanlit, deals specifically with the subject. The writer encourages the idea that fan stories should be more than just imaginative or emotional indulgence and concludes with the suggestion that anyone who wants to write SW fan fiction should have read at least one history book (preferably a world history) and one mythology book before starting.

Issue 3, July 1981

July brings the first reviews of ST zines that have begun carrying substantial SW subject matter. *Guardian* and *Time Warp*, respected zines in ST fandom, would soon acquire an equal reputation among SW fans. Issues 3 and 5 respectively are reviewed. Also covered are *Millennium* (not the zine reviewed under the same name in #2), *Dark Lord* 3/4 (out of Sweden), and *Space: Happy*. The number of zines available and coming soon remains steady, but the number requesting contributions and SASEs has jumped to 26.

Cynthia Shannon contributes an article, "'Give 'em Hell, Kid', the Skywalker/Solo Team." Four stories are used as examples of how the Luke/Han friendship has been portrayed in fanlit. In all, the author notes that Solo is the central figure, no matter the plot device. In the first variation, Skywalker exists to provide a vehicle for Han to play the protector and big brother. In the second, the roles are reversed with Luke protecting Han, but the focus remains on Solo as the main character; the action allowed Luke does not transfer the reader's concern from Han to Skywalker. The third variation provides role development for both men with Solo learning to accept his new role as friend and rebel and with Skywalker learning how to deal with Han's mercurial temperament, but even in this last more equitable presentation, Han remains the catalyst for action, with Luke in a passive role. Whatever the story, Shannon concludes that the driving force in the friendship is the realization that both Han and Luke are now on the same path for the duration of the conflict.

The letters in #2 on fanwriting have inspired both thoughtful and heated responses. At least one LoC challenges what the writer interprets as a "requirement" that certain books be read before a story can be written. Although this protest seems to be an isolated reaction, time will prove that a deep rift exists between fanwriters who tell stories for the simple enjoyment of playing in the SW universe and those who place more emphasis on the writer's craft. Someone remarks that to use the label of amateur to indicate poor or bad material is inaccurate and destructive. Another LoC suggests that the three major

categories of fanlit -- relationship, adventure, and character introspection -- attract different, and often unreconcilable, audiences; the writer warns that standards for each will differ, sometimes to the point of hostility if one is judged by the other in a review.

Complementing that last opinion is a lengthy, and testy, disagreement with the review of "Foreshadows", a story that appeared in *Skywalker* #4.

As far as I can tell, this letter about the "Foreshadows" review is the first in a SW letterzine to employ what I call the "how can you possibly imagine?" response. Amid any number of legitimate explanations for story problems that the original reviewer had noted are comments guaranteed to put a reviewer with the thickest skin on guard. The LoCer simply can't believe that the reviewer could possibly make claim A about the story, or she simply is astounded that the reviewer should suggest claim B about the story, can't possibly imagine that anyone of sound, unprejudicial judgment could hold attitudes X, Y and Z about the story. The assumption is of laziness or stupidity on the part of the reviewer at the least, or of maliciousness at the worst.

A discussion of zine publishing mechanics is begun as fans realize that many new SW fans are also completely new to the idea of fanzines, how they are produced and the etiquette of buying and selling thereof. The need for continuing discussion on this subject will become clear as comments and complaints appear in subsequent issues. The world of fanzines is changing with the growth of fandom's size, fandom's sophistication, and fandom's familiarity with development technology. Although fanzines reproduced on mimeograph machines still exist -- *Scum & Villainy* (1978), and the current issues of *Time Warp* -- offset printing is the norm; costs are rising for paper, printing and postage; the expectation of quality has skyrocketed and established fan editor/writers are getting older, acquiring families and finding themselves enveloped with mundane activities like careers. Turn-around time on manuscripts and art is lengthening. Delivery of zines has already changed from a few months to as long as a few years. The amount of money needed to produce a zine grows prohibitive for many, and buying large numbers of zines is quickly becoming a luxury of the past. The potential for misunderstandings between a publisher trying to conserve her money and a reader who is worried about the large check she just sent off is immeasurable.

Questions on plot and character development discussed in #3 include:

- Why don't female fanlit characters have female friends? Why do they act only in reaction to male characters? Is this fannish sexism?
- Are the reactions to Lando racially based?

- While all the major characters have changed and grown between ANH and TESB, isn't it a given that Luke has matured the most?
- Is Vader telling the truth with his paternity claim?
- And, isn't criticizing whether a certain fannish presentation is the "real" characterization foolish? After all, what George Lucas thinks and says about the characters is what counts.

Issue 4, September 1981

Appearing in this issue is the first part of an article that will inspire debate for many issues to come. Anne Zeek's "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button? An Exploration Into Who is the Other" explores Yoda's enigmatic claim in TESB. Part One concentrates on the grammar of the spoken phrase, examining whether the reference is to a person or an event or a decision. Was the phrasing "No, there is another [hope]," implying abstraction, or was it "No, there is an other [hope]," with its suggestion of a person or thing?

Zeek concludes that the hope refers to a person and examines a variety of possibilities among the SW population. Could it be a new character introduced in TESB, such as Lando or Boba Fett? A new character to appear in the next movie? Could it be a secondary character such as Wedge, or does the answer lie more obviously in a major character, such as Luke or the Droids? Could it be Darth Vader -- even if he is the bad guy?

The discussion of fanlit has heated up. Readers are chastised for taking SW too seriously. Enthusiasm for more zines is seen by one LoC as a harbinger of more bad fiction. Another wonders why anyone looks for good literature in fanlit, while a third insists that writers are learning their craft and must be encouraged to improve. Professional aspirations or not, one Loc insists, anything worth doing is worth doing well.

Support for Lando and Leia continue. There is speculation whether the Bespin housing arrangements for Han and Leia suggest the possibility that she could be pregnant.

Previous complaints about the lack of strong female characters in fanlit inspires a number of writers to ask just what constitutes a strong woman. The "Mary Sue" (MS) problem rises again. Labeling a new female main character a MS, with the implication that such a character in a story can be nothing more than an effort at wish fulfillment (especially if she is romantically involved with Han or Luke -- or with Vader, for that matter) has become an easy form of attack. Readers point out that Luke Skywalker could be called a "Mary Sue" since Lucas has been quite open about his own identification with his

main character. Further, by calling any strong woman a MS, fans deny all women, including Leia, any prominent role in the SW universe.

The authors of the now controversial "Foreshadows" write in to agree with the LoC that dissented from the story review, beginning a discussion of Luke as clone of his father, and of cloning in general.

A far bigger issue is on the boil, though. Lucasfilms' lawyers have sent fandom a letter that threatens legal action against any zine editor who publishes SW-related material that could be considered obscene or pornographic. The letter is definitely not written in a user-friendly tone. Two stories in particular are said to have inspired this action: a story from the Swedish fanzine, *Dark Lord*, in which Vader captures and sexually tortures Han Solo, and "Slow Boat to Bespin" (*Guardian* 3), a story that explores the personal relationship between Han and Leia as it might have developed while on their way to Cloud City. Through the fannish gossip it is also learned that an unpublished story outlining the adventures of Han Solo and a high-paid courtesan has been sent to Lucasfilm with less than positive results.

Two other versions of what really precipitated the prohibitive action will evolve in fannish folklore: (1) that the LF lawyers took the stories home to their wives and asked for judgment, which was extremely negative; and (2) that at a convention, a mother who picked up a zine for her young son was shocked at the contents and protested to LF for supporting such inappropriate literature.

I can't say if either above version is true, although I heard the first from a fairly reliable source connected with LF, and the latter resembles experiences fan editors I have known have had when their zines are bought at cons by parents who think LF sponsors such endeavors. Off-the-record comments from California would indicate that the true source of irritation was the Swedish story and that the Guardian story (certain never so explicit or gratuitous as the Swedish) simply appeared too close in time to escape notice.

The first accusations of censorship appear in this issue but far more will come!

The number of zines to be had immediately or soon stands at nearly 40 now. The first issue of *Kessel Run*, quickly to become one of the most popular zines in SW fandom, is reviewed, along with *Warped Space* 45, a multimedia zine, *Jedi Journal* 3, and *Hydrospanner Zero*.

The next two issues of JW mark the letterzine's coming of age. People were familiar with one another and the style of the zine was set. Volume demanded an increase in page count and after the combination of issues 5 and 6, the zine assumed the double size as normal. JW became the major communications line for SW fanzine

fans; what subjects and controversies arose in the zine became the subjects of phone conversations and convention panels. Although there were indeed many fans who did not contribute to JW, it was nearly impossible for anyone active in fanzines at that time to avoid its influence.

Issue 5/6, November 1981

In the 20 pages of this issue, one zine review (*Warped Space* 46), one article and 6 letters of general comment manage to squeeze in between 15 letters concerning the Lucasfilms guidelines and a classified section listing 69 different zine titles available, coming, or planned.

Part Two of Anne Zeek's "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?" is driven by the question: If Vader was obsessed with finding Luke Skywalker, why did he follow the *Millennium Falcon* off Hoth? Clearly, Zeek observes, he thought he was on the trail of a Force-sensitive person, presumably Luke, and therefore the Other must be Chewbacca, Han or Leia. First, Zeek's argument eliminates Chewie; then, Leia's qualifications are discussed with a reluctant negative conclusion. Although Zeek declares that she hopes Leia proves her wrong, the remainder of the article explores the reasons why Han Solo must be the Other. Zeek's arguments are detailed and braced with quotes from such scholars of fairy tale and myth as Joseph Campbell, Marie-Louise von Franz and Bruno Bettelheim.

The rest of this issue is definitely combative. Disagreements over the Lucasfilms' letter, reviews, fannish snobbishness and fannish prejudices have all taken such fire that editor Pat Nussman feels compelled to comment in her editorial that "I have noticed an acrimonious note creeping into some of the letters in JW, and, frankly, I don't like it."

A letter, outlining guidelines for fanlit, has been sent to editors by the SW Fan Club director. Most fans have read it by now -- Pat reprints it at the beginning of the LetterCol -- and responses range from acceptance: *If we're going to play with George's toys, we have to take care of them the way George would*; to sarcasm: *Fandom scares Papa Lucas!* There seems to be little middle ground. Either a fan accepts (however unhappily) Lucas' right to restrict the way fan stories based on his universe are presented or else Lucas's involvement in fandom is totally denied because, once created, the story/characters belong to the audience and any attempt to restrict audience interaction with the story/characters is censorship. To argue that Lucas might have a financial interest in the unauthorized application of his universe is to be reminded that fandom is non-profit, and to learn that such monetary concerns brand a person as non-creative and are below the

worthy attention of moral beings.

Ahem, before I get any further into this discussion, I had best switch to pure editorial mode. I will defend that last clause by quoting a fan who asked why Lucas should care what little fish like fans do anyway since "he's only in it for the bucks." The most violent letters were those that shouted loudest about censorship. No arguments for Lucas could be granted legitimacy when judged according to this icon of freedom. The growing national problem with special interest groups that pressured libraries and schools to ban books thought to be pornographic, and how such attitudes could be applied to LF through fandom, was dismissed as a concern.

Perhaps the argument would have simmered down if the example of ST's homoerotic stories hadn't existed. LoCs with the loudest cries of "I'll write it if I want to!" were from people who strongly supported the possibility of homoerotic SW stories, specifically Han/Luke stories. H/L existed then and exists today, but it remains underground. I believe two factors kept the subject from surfacing in open fanzines. One was LF's obvious awareness of and concern for what went on in fandom, unlike Paramount which did not even bother to copyright the first season of ST and which ignored fandom for years. The other was the quiet but determined actions of several well-known fan writers and artists who let it be known in editorial circles that they would not allow their material to appear in any zine that published H/L material. Because at least two of the protesting writers were themselves "gay", I believe the argument over the subject did not devolve to the homophobic levels of ST fandom but rather reflected a strong fannish opinion that Han and Luke were more brothers than anything else and that to pair them sexually was to violate a very specific relationship developed in the SW movies.

Perhaps the best example of how this subject turned strongly on attitudes toward Luke and Han is that stories with both implied and open same-sex relationships between secondary characters, or between Imperials, did indeed get published. I can attest that my stories, which were read by Gary Kurtz and which contained secondary characters from planets where same-sex couples were among the norm, were never criticized by LF.

A political problem closer to home has also arisen. Two fans, first-time zine editors, write in to complain about snobbish, exclusionary behavior by more established fans at a recent convention. This letter has also been sent privately to fans and editors so response is possible in this zine as well. The accusers make two specific claims: that they were shut out of fannish activities at the con, and that JW and big name fans (BNFs) conspire to keep JW the special property of "accepted" fans, implying that these BNFs also practice a monopoly with their

contributions to and reviews of "accepted" zines. The accused respond in letter and editorial comment that they recall being as friendly as might be expected toward fannish strangers, but feel no shame at not embracing them as old friends. The accusation of collusion between established editors for huckster table space is answered by the explanation that old friends often arrange to share tables; Pat Nussman further explains that her selection of reviews and articles does not reflect special or "accepted" interests but rather any interested fan willing to take the time to write and contribute. Reviews are not solicited; what she gets is what she prints.

I remember receiving the original letter from these angry young fans. Full of indignation at being passed over by BNFs in a situation where they believed universal fannish friendship should prevail, the letter contained absolutely no description of what had actually happened. Puzzled by their passion and concerned for the social implications of such an extreme measure of revenge, I wrote back saying that, certainly, if people had deliberately been obnoxious when in a situation where courtesy was expected, fandom would be concerned, but to make that judgment, I would have to know first what actually happened. The aggrieved wrote back that they thought the situation self-evident, thank you.

The particulars came out in this issue of JW; a few phone calls filled in details. An aspect of the fannish unity myth had translated into "we're all friends of immediate and equal standing" for these unhappy fans who saw conspiracy in a group of friends sharing a convention dealers' table space for convenience and sociability. That many of the zines on the table where JW was sold had already been reviewed by JW convinced these new editors that nothing good was going on. The incident could be dismissed as a single expression of youthful social ineptness/ignorance except that the expectation of immediate alliance and the assumption that a zine like JW deliberately wielded its power, turned out to be wide-spread among new fans.

The "Foreshadows" debate continues as the reviewer answers her critics, the first such justification to appear in JW. In her LoC, the reviewer maintains that she clearly supported the story as a creative piece and that her criticisms were based on plot developments/characterizations that did not satisfy her as a reader. In her review, she reminds her critic that she had encouraged people to read the story. Finally, she questions the tendency of some fans to believe that critical comment equals condemnation.

Whatever the defense of Lando in previous issues, there are some who maintain that he needs to do something to make up for betraying Han. Mythological precedent is cited by those wondering if he will die in the

third movie to redeem the friendship.

The question of Luke and Han's relationship in fanlit comes up in a response to Cynthia Shannon's article. The LoC points out that in the movies Luke is clearly the hero and Han is the sidekick. Any role reversal that exists between Luke and Han is restricted to fandom; mundane viewers of the Saga have no trouble discerning who is the main hero. The LoC cites possible reasons for this fannish tendency to put Han first. After noting the obvious fondness fans have for Harrison Ford, the writer explores the ideas (1) that Luke is more complex, more unknown than Han, (2) that Solo is easier to identify with and therefore to write about, and (3) that when Luke grows up, the responsibilities of his role will demand more of him as a hero than Han's role calls for, which, the writer observes, seems to be a distasteful idea to some Han fans.

I've described this letter in more detail than others because it is a marker for the beginning of a controversy that will come close to wrecking SW fanzine fandom. The preponderance of stories about Han Solo, already noted in Alderaan, continued through the JW years. Fannish gossip had long been full of sarcastic comments about Luke, "the farm kid," that contrasted with admiring comments about the "bedroom eyes" smuggler. One of the running jokes after TESB was the number of fans who had noticed Luke for the first time when he took his shirt off in his scenes with Yoda. That Han was THE character with sex appeal was a given.

In 1982, this admiration for Captain Solo took an ominous turn. Appreciation turned into devotion for a group of articulate Han fans who appeared unwilling to tolerate any fannish opinion of the Corellian smuggler other than their own. Starting in issue 8 with a sharply aggressive response to the above letter, the battle was joined. The core of this group were post-TESB fans; what Han had done in ANH was either ignored or dismissed as having been superseded by his behavior in TESB. To cite ANH behavior was to risk being declared a TESB-hater. Before long, if a LoC simply pointed out that arguing over favorite characters was profitless, the writer was accused of being a "Luke-lover" and assumed to be actively anti-Han.

Armed with the logic of the "Button, Button" article (logic against which no claim was legitimate), these Han fans filled their letters with dogmatic declarations about Solo and SW in general. One writer was particularly skilled in distracting verbal techniques; to refute her arguments was to be publicly mocked.

I remember being startled by the vehemence of these exchanges; I remember long-time fans assuring each other that politely refusing to fight, using the same weapons as these new LoCs writers, would solve the problem.

We were wrong.

Issue 7, January 1982 (goes to double size as normal)

Four zines are reviewed in this issue, *Evolution of a Rebel*, *Princess Tapes*, *Dark Lord*, and *Pegasus 5* -- the last being the first monster zine at 373 pages. Appropriately for its size, *Peg 5* has three different reviews with three quite different opinions. The first is unadulterated praise; the second qualifies its opinion with the recommendation that a person borrow and read the zine, if possible, rather than buy it; the third expresses grave disappointment in both story and art quality, and includes a detailed discussion of the longest story, "Satisfaction Guaranteed". Because violence is an important complaint in the two reviewers' objections, this review dovetails neatly with the running debate over the Lucasfilm letter and will inspire discussion to match the earlier disagreements over "Foreshadows" (incidentally, written by the same authors).

In the reactions to Anne Zeek's article (15 letters), many readers express thanks for the way the structure and relationships of the Saga were pulled apart and examined. LoCs elaborate with their own theories and cultural references; even Siegfried and Don Giovanni are mentioned! There is emphasis that the Other must be Force sensitive and some debate over whether Leia's ability to hear Luke at the end of TESB is a demonstration of that talent. One LoC reports that, contrary to Zeek's fine article, Gary Kurtz has informed fandom at a recent World SF Con that the Other is a figure from the 1st, yet unfilmed trilogy.

The LF controversy is still running. There's agreement with the idea that we should treat Lucas' possessions as he would wish, but also a reiteration of the claim that once GL created the Saga, it belonged to the universe. There's disagreement over what is gratuitous sex and violence, with the implication that if fandom finds Lucasfilm's standards erroneous, fandom can feel justified in continuing as before. This argument also opens the door to sharp judgment of other fans' opinions; dogmatism is rampant. Claims that "fannish tradition" grants immunity, that fandom is comparable to an underground group fighting for independence and liberty, is refuted with the reminder that ST fanzine writers were able to write ST fiction of all varieties because (1) Paramount had not copyrighted the 1st season of ST, and (2) Paramount was lazy and arrogant, never believing that ST fandom would amount to anything, let alone a consumer power that could affect the sales of its product.

In the continuing discussion of fannish friendships/cliches, a few LoCs gently suggest that -- best intentions aside -- fans often are cliquish and harsh to shy new fans.

One LoC asks fandom to consider the obligations that come with being a BNF.

General letters discussed:

- Script writer Larry Kasdan's regret that Chewie's jealousy of Han's relationship with Leia was dropped from the final version of TESB.
- Pride as Vader's big fault.
- The SW radio show on National Public Radio: how does it differ from the movies and does having different actors matter?
- Other mythic aspects that can be applied to SW.

Regarding fanlit, one LoC asks whether a smart-ass review could be confused with (and is it any different from) a personal attack in a review? One more request for literate writers is registered, and another LoC warns that too much emphasis on relationship stories in fandom is dangerous to plot.

Seventy-one zines are listed in this crucial issue!

The next 7 issues will be full of emotion as the conflict between zealous Han fans and the rest of JW's readership explodes, as disagreements over Vader's presentation will meld into long letters on the differences

between the Empire and the Alliance, and as media fandom in general begins the slow understanding that it is no longer a small, struggling and young group of people but rather a large umbrella for a social group with many different interests and opinions.

In case anyone is wondering, questions about the nature of the Force and the philosophical wanderings that flow from such inquiry had not yet made it into general conversation. The American legal tradition of treating religion and philosophy as purely individual interests kept many fans from making comments about their interpretation of the Force and the SW "world view." Interest in such discussion was not helped by an early story wherein Luke is likened to Christ and brings Han back to life, mostly because the writers were loudly dogmatic in their insistence on a Christian interpretation of the Saga. Also, there had been enough public dismissals of the Force as irrational (i.e., anti-scientific) to inhibit many fans. Some stories and fannish SW universes dealt with the subject at this time, but ROTJ would be released before philosophy becomes an unavoidable topic. To be continued...

1993 STAR aWARDs

Judith Yuenger

The results of the 1993 STAR aWARDs were announced at MediaWest*Con Fourtoon in Lansing, Michigan on May 29, 1994.

The ceremony was held in the Forces of the Empire cantina (the room was appropriately named the Imperial Room) and I want to thank the members of FOE for allowing us the use of their facilities.

Before the awards were given out, I made a short (much to the undying gratitude of everyone who was anxious to see who won!) speech. We had a total of 42 voters for the award which is a very small number in relation to the number of SW fans. I had heard some rumors that there were some disgruntled people who felt that the same people were winning all the time. First, this is *not* true -- the same people have not won year after year and, if you don't like the way the results turn out -- then vote! If the same people are winning, then the same people are voting, so if you don't like it, get out and vote and change it. Also, there was some question about voting for yourself -- why not? Do you really think that Bush voted for Clinton?

The certificates this year are different from previous certificates. I intend to use a certificate for two years and then browbeat -- er -- ask another SW artist to do the certificate. This year's certificate was done by Wanda Lybarger. It is positively beautiful. Thanks, Wanda.

There was much anticipation for the '93 awards as no one knew who the winners were except me and Arwen Rosenbaum (who prints up the certificates). It was sort of like Oscar night! The winners and the Honorable Mentions were announced amid much applause.

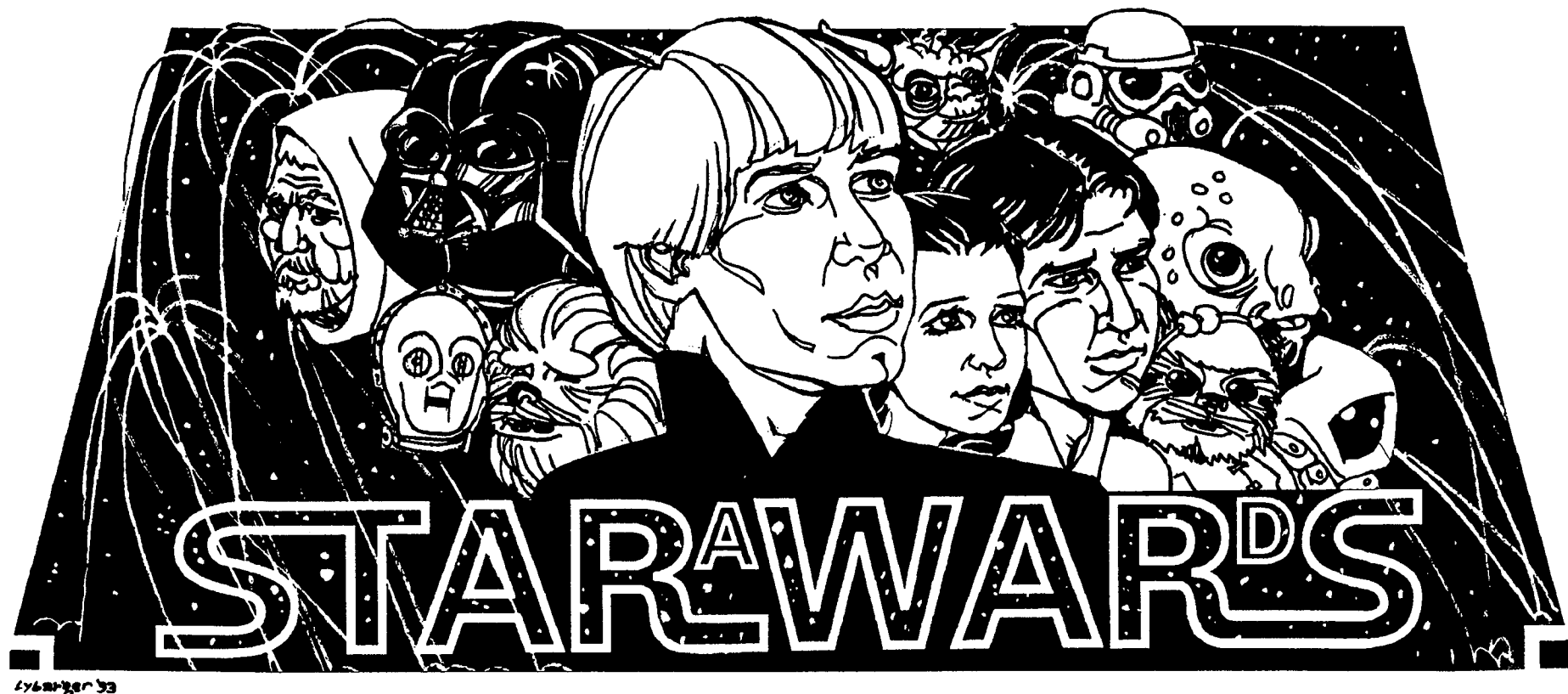
The medals (hung on black and red neck ribbons) and certificates were presented this year by Mrs. Ackbar. If you were not able to attend, we are sorry but know that you were there with us in spirit.

As you will see, there were several ties again this year. The short story category was very long and will probably be divided next year. Since the category was so large, I gave out Honorable Mentions to those three that came closest to the winner.

We had a lot of fun and hope that you can join us next year.

1993 STAR aWARDS

Star Wars Zine:	<i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7 (Editor: Cheree Cargill)
MultiMedia Zine:	<i>Remote Control</i> #3 (Editor: Kathryn Agel)
Honorable Mention:	<i>Better Idea Zine</i> #23 (Editor: Cynthia Smith)
Newsletter/Letterzine:	<i>Southern Enclave</i> (Editor: Cheree Cargill)
Foreign Zine:	<i>Cloud City: Freezing Chamber</i> (Editor: Fiorenzo delle Rupi)
Short Story:	"Drastic Plastic" by Diane Duane (<i>Imperium</i> #3)
Honorable Mention:	"Beauty is in the Organ of Vision of the Beholder" by Z. P. Florian (<i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7)
	"If Dreams Were X-Wings" by J. P. Treleaven (<i>Crossfire Zone</i> #3)
	"Spazzin' at the Spa" by Homer Sapiento (<i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7)
Medium Story (Tie):	"Glass Garden" by Wanda Lybarger (<i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7)
	"Where is Thy Sting?" by Marti Schuller and Veronica Wilson (<i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7)
Long Story:	"Unlikely Allies" by Veronica Wilson (<i>Imperium</i> #3)
Honorable Mention:	"Designated Hitter" by Carol Hines-Stroede (<i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7)
Filk:	"Dark as a Lord Can Get" by Deborah Kittle (<i>Alliance and Empire</i> #1)
Honorable Mention:	"The Ewok Barrel Polka" by Pat Grant and Lynne Miller (<i>Imperium</i> #3)
Poem:	"The Saga According to Leia Organa" by Jacqueline Taero (<i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7)
Illo Artist:	Gerald Crotty for illos in <i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7
Honorable Mention:	Dianne Smith for illos in <i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7
Cover Artist (Tie):	Mark Fisher for the cover of <i>Imperium</i> #3
	Nancy Stasulis for the cover of <i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7
Honorable Mention:	Dianne Smith for the back cover of <i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7
Miscellaneous (Tie):	Tina Bentrup for cartoons in <i>A Tremor in the Force</i> #7
	Z. P. Florian for "Pet Advisor" in <i>Crossfire Zone</i> #4



1993 Best Newsletter

This Certificate is Awarded to Cheree Cargill

for Southern Enclave

Judith L. Yuenget
STAR a WARDs Chairman

Media West Con 14 Report

Judith Yuenger

All those that attend the con will tell you that the rest of the year seems to drag along while the five days at the con seem to fly by in an instant! Somehow there never seems to be enough time to do all the things that you want to do or get a chance to talk to all the people you want to. Usually you pass them in the hall or dealer's room and wave.

You don't eat regular heathful foods, don't get enough sleep, are forever going up and down halls searching for rooms that are selling things and then seem to spend your time sitting on the floor rummaging through boxes searching out musty old zines, wading your way through the dealer's room, going to parties and talking to anyone and everyone and call it FUN! You come home exhausted and drained. Is it worth it? You'd better believe it!

To me, the most important part of the con is meeting people you haven't seen since last year, making new friends and best of all being able to talk about your favorite fandom with people who (1) understand what you're talking about and (2) don't look at you askance and utter, "huh?"

Going to the panels gives you a chance to discuss the movies, the stars, the books, whatever and listen to other points of view. Most of the SW panels at MWC were well attended and the discussion was lively in most cases.

The Rebel Breakfast hosted by the Forces of the Empire was held (oddly enough) in the Imperial Room and was simply terrific. For \$2.00 you could stuff yourself. Forces of the Empire held a dance that was a blast, especially since just about everyone came in costume. There were Imperials, a Tusken Raider, a bug, some Corellians, Jawas, Luke, Leia, Darth Vader, Jedi Knights, and I hardly know what else. There was another SW party called the Kessel Downport Party -- lots of munchies and a lot of SW talk.

The SE party was held in Cheree's room -- it was wall to wall bodies! Again, more munchies and lots of laughter. Later the party adjourned to my room and went on for hours -- nobody wanted to go to bed.

I'm sure that by now you know that there was a lottery for rooms in the hotel for next year. The line was looong and it took about 2 hours to get to the head of the line.

Cheryl Pryor, Lin Ward, Z. P. Florian and Debbie

Kittle set up another doll display. This one was in the Imperial room. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to open the viewing on The Carolyn Golledge Memorial Hospital with Carolyn cutting the ribbon. They had several scenes of Han in the hospital with some rib tickling signs. They also had a scene of Han about to cut open a taun-taun with Luke lying unconscious and an ice cave with Luke hanging from the ceiling and a Wampa lurking nearby. (See photos elsewhere in this issue.) They already have plans to set up another display next year. If you attend, please be sure to drop by the Imperial Room to see it and be sure to bring your camera.

Besides the panels, there was a fanzine reading room, a video room, the art room and the dealer's room. The dealer's room always seemed to be crowded. In addition to the fanzines, there were pins, stickers, toys, books, jewelry, photos, artwork, posters, etc., available. A veritable shopper's delight!

There were quite a few of us who stayed over until Tuesday. Monday night there was a birthday celebration for Marti Schuller (who will positively cringe at this reference!). Everyone sat outside in the courtyard and two girls (whose names unfortunately I've forgotten) from Forces of the Empire entertained us with a beautiful story and "The Ballad of Luke Skywalker." Both girls wove magic with their words and song. Thanks!

SW items seemed to be selling like hotcakes! I overheard one dealer who was selling the new SW pins say that if he had known they were going to be such a hot item, he would have brought more of them.

SW zines that made their debut at MWC#14 were:

- Alliance and Empire* #2, Kathryn Agel, ed.
- Bright Center of the Universe* #4, Ming Wathne, ed.
- Imperium* #4, Arwen Rosenbaum, ed.
- May the Frisky Be With You!*, Starlite Press
- On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #7, Mark and Melea Fisher, eds.
- Pursuit of the Nashtah*, a novel by Nora Mayers.
- Shadow Jedi*, Kathryn Agel, ed.
- SW Story Bibliography*, Ming Wathne and Judith Yuenger, eds.

Tales from the Cantina #2, Pat Grant, ed.
Who's Scruffy Lookin'?, Kathryn Agel, ed.

Multimedia zines (containing SW) were:

Flip of a Coin #16, Paula Truelove and Jenny McAdams, eds.

Remote Control #4, Kathryn Agel, ed.

Shadowstar #34, Mary Jean Holmes, ed.

Also available were some other SW zines that came out earlier this year:

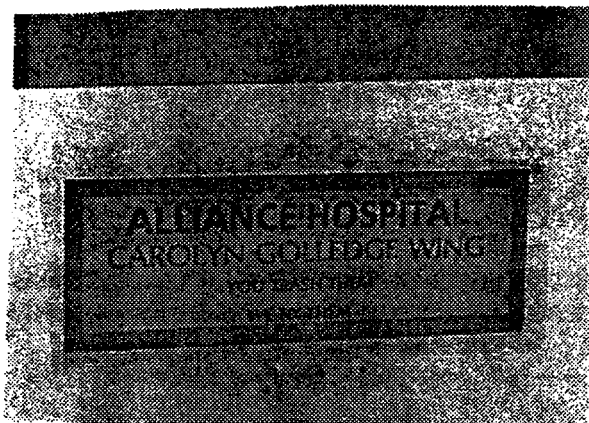
Another Sky... #5, Melanie Gutierrez and Lorrie Cherry, eds.

Blue Harvest #2, Mary Jo Fox, ed.

Only Hope #1, Cheryl DeLuca and Tammy Olsen, editors.

Technological Terror, Charyl Perry and Jenny Jivan, editors.

A veritable feast of SW material and there are still several due to come out later this year. Hope to see you all next year!



Carolyn Golledge and the
Golledge Memorial Hospital



Editor and Publisher:

Cheree T. Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

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Deadline for #40 -- October 1, 1994

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Submissions received later than seven (7) days after deadline will not be published in the current issue.

BULLETIN BOARD

ONLINE DIRECTORY

Since so many of us are now cruising the information superhighway, I'd like to begin a listing of e-mail addresses. Many of you are already running your addresses in your LoCs or ads. If anyone is interested in posting their on-line whereabouts here, just let me know. Here's mine and a few others already running in this issue:

Cheree Cargill C.CARGILL@GENIE.GEIS.COM
Pat Nussman P.NUSSMAN@GENIE.GEIS.COM
Charyl Perry HOOKS@AOL.COM
or C.PERRY3@GENIE.GEIS.COM
Arwen Rosenbaum ARWENR@AOL.COM
Ann Wortham ASHTON2@AOL.COM

CLUBS

Forces of the Empire
c/o Pat Grant
2371 N. Aurelius, Apt. 12
Holt, MI 48842

The Moons of Yavin
19 Park Avenue
Bottesford, Scunthorpe
South Humberside DN17 2PB
England

ERRATA

From: Gail Mihara

I read in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that Lucasfilm is planning on shooting footage for its CD ROM SW game side-by-side with the actual new SW movies. So, there will be new footage, it seems, for the CD ROM game.

Also, another side note, negotiations are underway to bring the Denis Lawson musical "Lust" to the Walnut Theater in Philadelphia in early 1995. The producers want to bring Lawson along, but only time and financial backers will tell if that happens. Still, it's something for SE readers to keep an eye out for.

From: Kathy Agel (via GENie)

DEL REY BIBLIOGRAPHY: Star Wars Titles from Ellen

Key Harris, Editor, Del Rey Books

Ballantine and Del Rey have been publishing SW-related titles since the very beginning -- since before SW was released, in fact. Over the years we let a lot of titles go out of print, but we're bringing them back now as excitement builds for the new movies (which are scheduled for '97, '98, and '99). The giant, full-color *Art of SW* books will be available again this fall, and we've also got some new projects in development (more news on those as they solidify). Our *Lando Calrissian Adventures* mass-market omnibus by L. Neil Smith will be out in July, and we'll be publishing an illustrated trade paperback called *Star Wars: The National Public Radio Dramatization* (the 13 NPR scripts, by Brian Daley) in October, probably followed by the TESB dramatization next year.

Books are listed below in two sets: those in print, and those out of print. All are mass-market paperback unless otherwise noted. The fiction is, of course, all based on the characters and situations created by George Lucas. In print:

Star Wars: From the Adventures of Luke Skywalker by George Lucas (12/76; 345-30735-6)

Splinter of the Mind's Eye by Alan Dean Foster (4/78; 345-32023-9)

The Empire Strikes Back by Donald F. Glut (5/80,
345-32022-0)

Return of the Jedi by James Kahn (6/83; 345-30767-4)

Industrial Light and Magic by Thomas G. Smith
(hardcover, 11/86; 345-32263-0)

The Star Wars Trilogy (trade-paperback omnibus, 5/87; 345-34806-0)

The Star Wars Trilogy (mass-market omnibus, 3/93; 345-38438-5)

The Han Solo Adventures by Brian Daley (omnibus, 6/92; 345-37980-2)

A Guide to the Star Wars Universe, Second Edition by Bill Slavicsek (trade paperback, 3/94; 345-38625-6)

Out of print (a large but probably not exhaustive list, apparently we've done some books over the years that no one here has copies of!):

The Marvel Comics Illustrated Version of Star Wars,
adapted by Roy Thomas and Howard Chaykin (11/77;
345-27492-X)

Splinter of the Mind's Eye by Alan Dean Foster
(hardcover, 2/78; 345-27566-7)

Han Solo at Stars' End by Brian Daley (hardcover, 4/79; 345-28251-5)

Han Solo at Stars' End by Brian Daley (10/79;
345-29664-8)

The Art of Star Wars, edited by Carol Tittleman (hardcover, 11/79; 345-28273-6)

The Art of Star Wars, edited by Carol Tittleman (trade paperback, 11/79; 345-33217-2)

Han Solo's Revenge by Brian Daley (hardcover, 11/79; 345-27475-5)

Han Solo's Revenge by Brian Daley (6/80; 345-28840-8)

The Empire Strikes Back Illustrated Edition by Donald F. Glut (trade paperback, 7/80; 345-28831-9)

Han Solo and the Lost Legacy by Brian Daley (9/80; 345-28710-X)

Once Upon a Galaxy: A Journal of the Making of The Empire Strikes Back, by Alan Arnold (9/80; 345-29075-5)

The Art of The Empire Strikes Back edited by Deborah Call (hardcover, 10/80; 345-29335-5)

The Art of The Empire Strikes Back edited by Deborah Call (trade paperback, 10/80; 345-28833-5)

The Jedi Master's Quiz Book by Rusty Miller, who was 11 years old at the time (11/82; 345-30697-X)

Return of the Jedi Illustrated Edition by James Kahn (6/83; 345-30960-X)

Lando Calrissian and the Mindharp of Sharu by L. Neil Smith (7/83; 345-31158-2)

The Making of Return of the Jedi edited by John Philip Peecher (9/83; 345-31235-X)

Lando Calrissian and the Flamewind of Oseon by L. Neil Smith (10/83; 345-31163-9)

The Art of Return of the Jedi (hardcover, 11/83; 345-31254-6)

The Art of Return of the Jedi (trade paperback, 11/83; 345-30957-X)

Lando Calrissian and the Starcave of Thonboka by L. Neil Smith (12/83; 345-31164-7)

A Guide to the Star Wars Universe by Raymond J. Velasco (12/84; 345-31920-6)

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE #7, March 1985, 52 pps, triple columns, reduced.

Lead article: "The Private Life of a Jedi, or A Treatise on the Jedi Order, Part One" by Jeanine Hennig. Also "Dune and SW: How Similar Are They?" by Barbara Tennison. Reviews of *Far Realms* 6 and *Docking Bay* 5 by Sandra Necchi. Word search puzzle by Lynda Vandiver. Art by Cheree Cargill and Danaline Bryant. Personal profile of Susan Henderson.

LoCers included: Rose Arnold, Terri Black, Tim Blaes, Barbara Brayton, Danaline Bryant, Bev Clark, Debbie Gilbert, Liz Gootjes, Susan Henderson, Jeanine Hennig, P. J. LaVasseur, Bev Loreinstein, Marlene Karkoska, Mary Keever, Thekla Kurth, Michelle Malkin, Sandra Necchi, Maggie

Nowakowska, Carole Regine, Sally Syrjala, Barbara Tennison, Mary Urhausen, Laura Virgil, Lin S. Ward, Jeannie Webster, Ann Wortham.

Topics of discussion included: Han and Leia's relationship, rank in the Alliance forces, non-human races, quantum physics, editing Locs, droid torture, whether fans have a better grasp on characters than Lucas, publishing zines for MediaWest, who were the Jedi and their place in the Old Republic, Imperial viewpoints, twins, terrorism vs. patriotism, the "deification" of Han Solo, the meaning of names in the SW saga, Buddhism in SW, Leia and the Force, several letters from Cathedral of Luke proponents [the Church of Ford was conspicuously absent in this issue having collectively missed the deadline, but were back in full force in SE#8], cheap SW products and Lucas' mercenary attitude, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, fans vs. mundanes and sf fans vs. media fans.

Zines listed: [Currently in Port] *A Tremor in the Force* #2, *Chameleon* (a collection of portraits of Harrison Ford by Dianne Smith), *Circle of Light* #1, *Combining Forces* #3, *Contraband* #2-3, *Deceptive Journey*, *Fantasy*, *Far Realms* #6, *Flip of a Coin*, *Guardian* #6, *Harrison Ford Fun Book*, *Jundland Wastes*, *Kessel Run* #4, *Legends of Light* #2, *Melange* #3-4, *On the Mark*, *Outland Chronicles* #2, *Perceptions*, *Scoundrel*, *ShadowDance*, *Shooting Star* #1, *The Old Republic Reader*, *The Princess Tapes*, *The Princess Tapes: The Prologue*, *Wookiee Commode* #1, *Universal Translator*, *VHF-The Complete Book of Lyrics* (lyrics to Martie Benedict's filks), *Well of the Souls* #4. [Coming Soon] *All That Jazz* (Ateam zine), *The Baron of Bepin*, *Choice Parts* #1, *Circle of Light* #2-3, *Echo Seven* #1, *Eclectic*, *Field Studies* #2, *Just a Couple of Jokers* (Simon & Simon), *Legends of Light*, *Not Just Luke*, *One from the Heart* (all Mark Hamill zine), *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #1, *Perfect Fusion*, *Perspective* (letterzine), *Power of Speech* (letterzine), *Shooting Star* #2, *Sith Yearbook*, *Southern Knights* #1, *Southern Lights* #1, *The Leading Edge* (sf), *The Millennium Falcon Casebook*, *The Monocle* (Wizards and Warriors), *The Princess Tapes* #2, *Wookiee Commode* #2, *Well of the Souls* #5, *Xanadu*. [Other Worlds] Texas Rebel Alliance and Archaeological Society/Lucasfilm fans club by Carolyn Cooper, buttons made to order, Walk of Fame Star for Harrison Ford, George Lucas Appreciation and Admiration Society, offer to do zine reviews by Sandra Necchi, several people buying and selling used zines, More Eastly Con, ST slides, VHF (Martie Benedicts filks), and photos for sale.



A LOOK AT MEDIA WEST*CON 14



SW doll display



Veronica Wilson, Liz Sharpe,
Judith Yuenger and Z. P. Florian



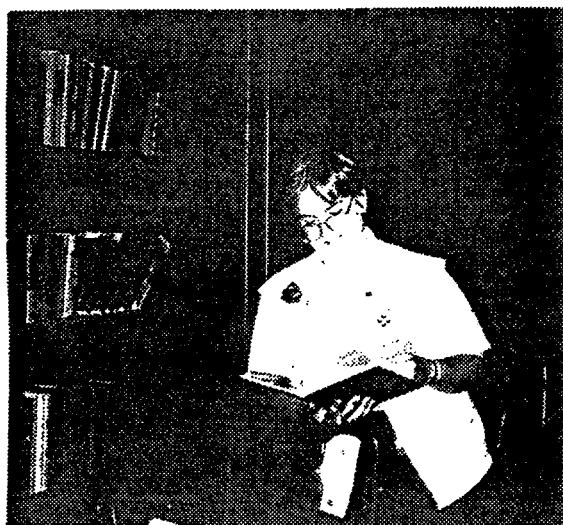
Wanda Lybarger and Nora Mayers
as Unicorn and Tusken Raider



Melea and Mark Fisher



Nora Mayers, Carolyn Gollledge
and Liz Sharpe



Sue Zahn looking scholarly



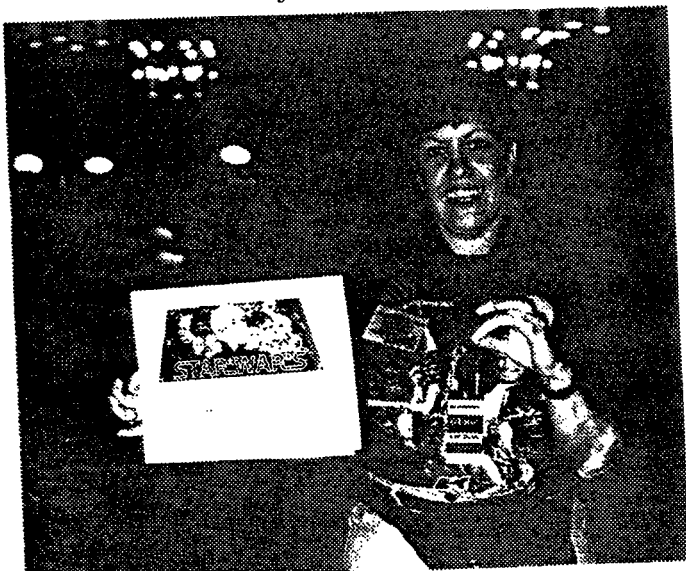
Ming Wathne



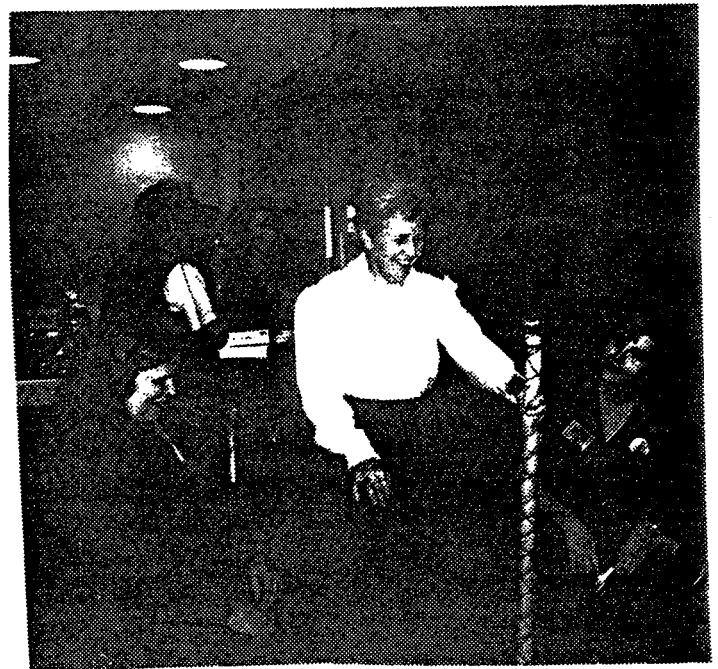
Han after being trashed by
Carolyn (SW doll display)



Wanda Lybarger as the
Bug with Nora Mayers



Kathy Agel with
Star Award



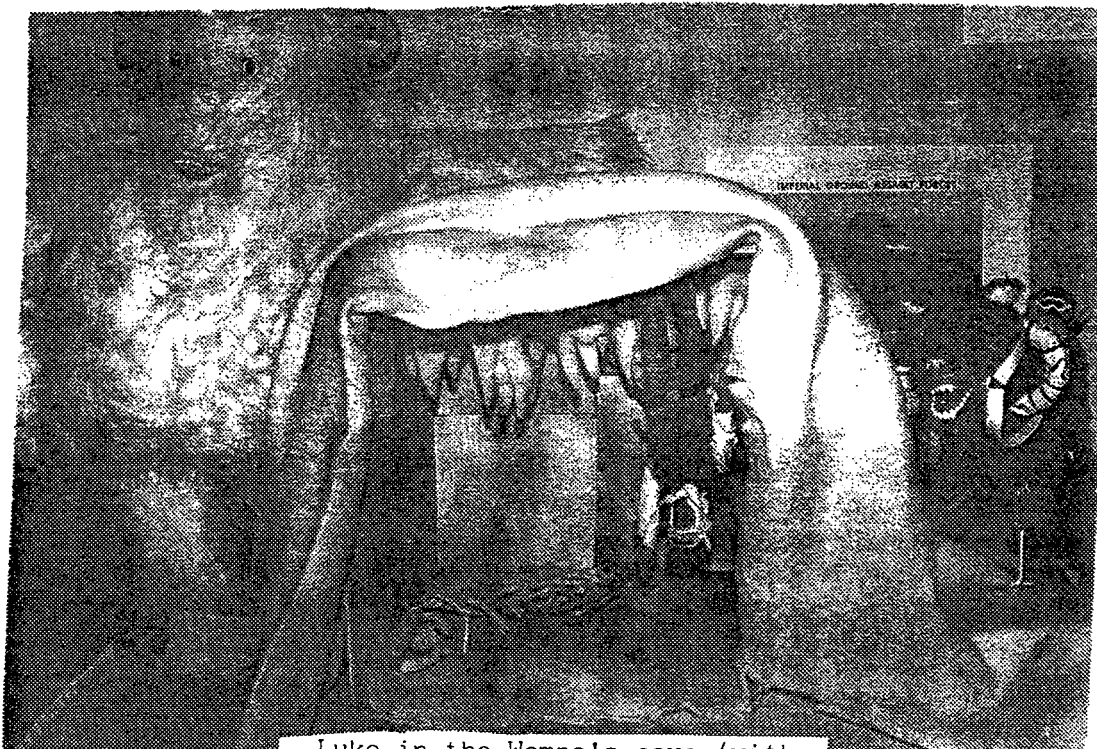
Debbie Kittle, Judith Yuenger
and Veronica Wilson



Arwen Rosenbaum and a certain
Tusken Raider



Kathy Agel and Katy Cargill

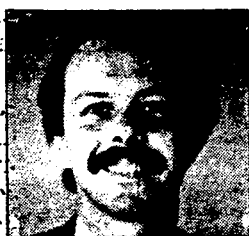


Luke in the Wampa's cave (with
Wampa outside) - SW doll display

AUTH



Lucas values Family



ED BARK

LOS ANGELES — Deal with it: George Lucas and Pat Robertson are business partners.

Mr. Industrial Light & Magic, who also happens to be a renowned filmmaker, is taking four new *Young Indiana Jones* movies to Mr. Robertson's The Family Channel. The first attraction, *Young Indiana Jones and the Hollywood Follies*, is scheduled to premiere Oct. 15.

Mr. Lucas, who seldom does interviews, gave The Family Channel a half-hour of his valuable time Saturday at a packed news conference. Mr. Robertson, the conservative televangelist/talk show host, did not attend but presumably was there in spirit.

"Are you uncomfortable being involved with Pat Robertson?" he was asked.

"I knew that was going to come up," Mr. Lucas replied before separating his art from the art of the deal.

"As long as they don't tell me how to make movies, I'm not that concerned where they're shown," he said. "Ultimately I'm making these films for video and interactive discs. . . . I have to do whatever I have to do to get there."

The *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* aired in 1992 and 1993 on ABC in several time periods. It died in "the black hole of Saturday night," as Mr. Lucas put it.

But the series remained popular in Europe and of abiding interest to Mr. Lucas. His company looked for a stateside distributor of new *Indy* movies and settled on The Family Channel after an otherwise fruitless search.

"I love these shows and my heart is in them," Mr. Lucas said of *Young Indy*. "But I don't make any money on them, so at some point I'm going to have to go back to making movies and being more economically productive."

Mr. Lucas said he still has "20 or 30 scripts laying around" for new *Young Indy* adventures. But a second trilogy of *Star Wars* films is finally getting his attention — "I'm going to start writing them at some

Sunday, July 10, 1994

TELEVISION

point" — and he also might produce a fourth big-screen movie starring Harrison Ford as the fortysomething Indiana.

Sean Patrick Flanery is returning to play the 21-year-old Indy. In his *Hollywood Follies* adventure, he encounters two famed directors of the 1920s, Erich von Stroheim and John Ford.

The second film, subtitled *The Treasure of the Peacock's Eye*, sends Indy to Thailand in search of a 140-carat diamond. It will premiere sometime early next year.

During its run on ABC, *Young Indy* was branded the most violent series on television by one watchdog group. Mr. Lucas said it's easy to reach such a conclusion if explosions and fistfights are finger-counted out of context.

"Part of understanding a violent world is to have some sort of metaphysical access to it," he explained.

It sounds like something a *Star Wars* character would say. Maybe Mr. Lucas is closer to another blastoff than we know.

Barroom Buddies

It's ten o'clock. Fathers - do you know where your sons are?

How would I know?
I've last seen mine
twenty years ago!

Raptor puppies - adorable.
Free to a good home.
Call Steven after 8 pm.

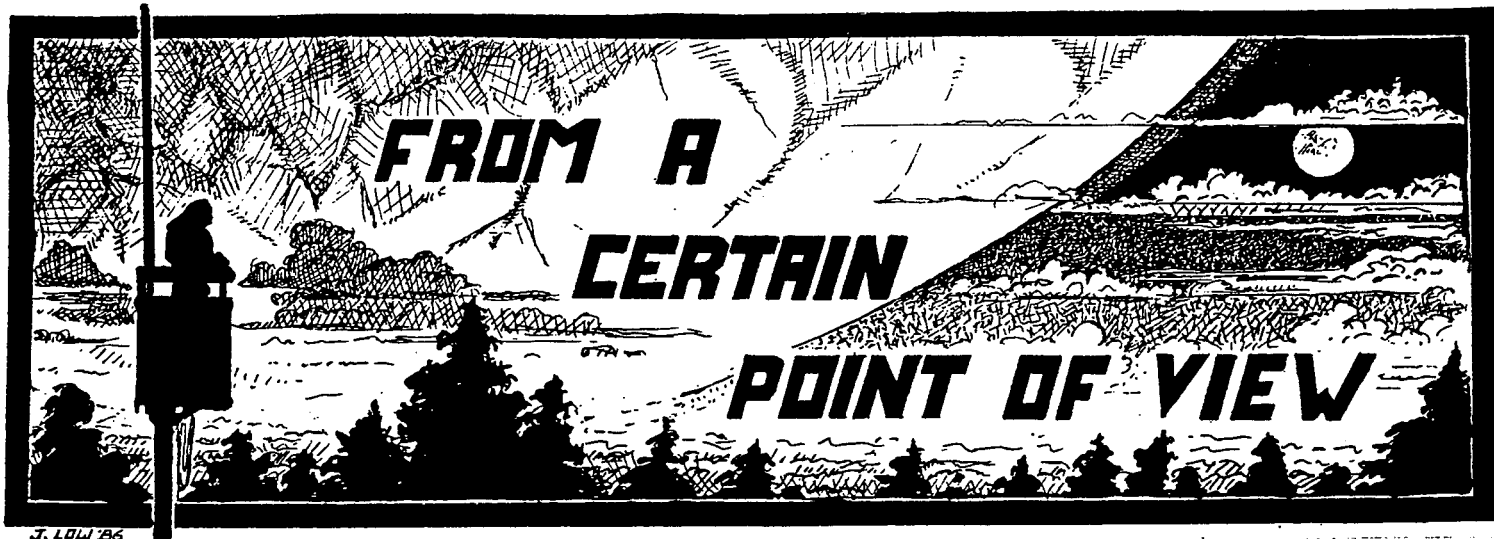
Mud Wrestling
Tonya Harding
vs.
Toya Jockey
Monday, 7/3/94



BOXING
Torky
Bailboz
vs.
John Paul II

Babysitter wanted?
call
Jacko - 4-69

1994



Carolyn E. Cooper
PO Box 66244
Houston, TX 77598

March 28, 1994

Congratulations on paying off your mortgage! Did you have a mortgagee burning party? I'm sorry Randy is having to deal with job hunting. Let me know if there's anything I can help with. Networking your systems this summer? Have a wonderful time at MW*C, buy a large bottle of aspirin, get a relaxation tape and a bataka bat, take a deep breath and repeat after me, "This will pass. Think of it as a game. If I can just solve this puzzle, there are wonderful things waiting. This will pass..."

Are you folks into interactive multimedia training yet? I support you entirely on the fee for the marketplace tables. I know how much a suite can eat up your budget and you're right, it's only fair that the people who are profiting from the increased space, contribute. \$12.00 is a price anyone can afford (if they can already afford to go to MW*C). If someone isn't selling \$12.00 worth of goods, then there's really no point in putting it out or they can work out an arrangement with someone else who has more stuff. (Dealer pooling?)

Re: Sound Clips at \$20. This shouldn't be a pirate. There are dealer discounts involved. It is not uncommon, though incredibly dumb, that a software product can be purchased from a third-party source cheaper than direct from the source. Some stores or distributors may also be using this as a loss-leader to get you in. I know I picked up my ST clips and screen savers in a bundle for under \$20 as part of a special promotion. I'm pretty sure my SW clips were also only \$20. Enjoy them with a clear conscious.

Re: Rebel Assault CD. FYI, Rebel Assault is the #1 selling CD-ROM title according to *New Media* magazine. Been there for a couple of months, too. I haven't picked

it up, because (a) I've got so much work to do and (b) everyone who's played it recommends a joystick and I don't have any more room on my multimedia system. Maybe I'll attach one to Paul's system...

Z. P.: Really, I'm gonna get a letter off to you with a FACPOV#6 update, real soon. Yeah, right. I don't know if a storm is coming, but you're right about a de facto split in content. A lot of folks take one look at the Johanna Lindsey spoof on the cover of FACPOV #5 and say they don't want an "adult" zine. I have to convince them it's a satire of the romance novel covers (for those reading who haven't seen it, Melea Fisher did a fabulous spoof of the romance cover that was banned from a number of groceries stores throughout the country. Naturally, this doubled sales. On FACPOV#5, you see a side shot of a naked Han crushing Leia, in a flowing, off the shoulder ante-bellum style gown, against his chest. A strategically placed bush covers a third of his tush. And Bepin floats in the background.) It was certainly an unexpected reaction. But I've had to make very clear that FACPOV is a PG-PG13 zine in many areas.

Tammy: Thanks for the kind words. A sequel to "Past Shadows"? Please, I'm trying to beg a *short* story out of Scotty. Yes, usually the actors are paid for appearing on QVC and some of them have a percentage of the merchandise they plug.

Mary Jo: Thank you, thank you for your flame about the need on peoples' parts to complicate SW with pop-psycho-PC-social-babble. Save it for the next three, guys. It sounds like what Lucas is planning. Meanwhile, let me enjoy my sexually-unmolested, social drinking, well-adjusted (in a Tool Time guy sense), chaotically good, hero Han (and my incredibly naive, gullible, growing-up-too-fast hero Luke [okay, side note. Has anyone else noticed that Luke has all the background to become a "Magnum P.I.", "Hawkeye Pierce" Peter Pan-like character after the war? Or is it just me? Okay, it's just me.]).

Nora: It was good hearing from you. Keep safe in D.C.! We love you and worry. (I should talk. I was in CA for the fires and just missed the earthquake and mud slides.) Fools rush in... I just want to throw some thoughts out on the piracy issue. I've been discussing this general topic with many folks in music, film, video and multimedia. (1). I recommend everyone read John Perry Barlow's excellent discourse on intellectual property in the electronic/information age. He has a couple of small logical fallacies in his enthusiasm, but he gets the nut of the problem and poses some good questions. (2). We can't stop duplication of media. We've probably all got something of a pirate nature in our homes -- cassette tape of a favorite song pulled from the LP or CD, a videotape of a TV show or a movie we took off of HBO, an article or newspaper clipping we photocopied, et al. (3). The primary reason for piracy is "value for cost". If we perceive something we desire as being worth as much or more than the price asked, we buy it. This is the entire impetus of point-of-purchase displays by the cash register. How many pirated video copies of SW were out there until the price of the videotape dropped to below \$30? How many of us impulse-bought a zine at a con because it was interesting and "so cheap" (usually under \$10)? It may be necessary for us (editors/publishers) to find ways to cut our costs. I am very sorry now that I didn't wait on FACPOV#5 until I found a cheaper printing source. While the zine is very good, the cover is fabulous, I'm unhappy with having to charge \$17. Maybe we can make our issues smaller and publish more often. (4). Scarcity will also increase both the value of a work, and the tendency to reproduce it illegally. We editors may need to figure out better distribution. I am working on the same problem in multimedia (MM) and small press music publishing. I will keep everyone posted later this year on our tests. I think the same concept may be viable for zines. (5). "Piracy" doesn't always mean lost sales. In fact, in our society, recognition can result in increased profits. Barlow points out that a significant factor in the Grateful Dead's status as the best selling live act in music is because they've always permitted fans to tape at the concerts. As they shared the tapes with others, Grateful Dead fandom lived, and grew, increasing concert sales and record sales. I have gotten zine orders from folks who found me by borrowing a friend's copy. I've even had someone admit that a friend sent them a photocopy of issue #1 and now they wanted a complete collection. I also remember when the Romance Writers of America (RWA) and several other national writers association began discussing in the 1980's forcing libraries to pay a "royalty" for each book checked out. They felt they were being "robbed" by not getting paid each time their

work was read. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed and pointed out that if readers didn't know you existed or what you wrote, they wouldn't become a fan and buy the rest of your books. People are more inclined to pony up the money, particularly in tight financial times, if they know and like the product. Software distributors are now offering samples of a program for this reason. Books often include a sneak preview of another novel. And movies have long given us a "preview of coming attractions". Maybe we zine editors need to do more than a blurb. Maybe we need to produce some samples. I don't know. These are just thoughts.

And finally, let me state right now, *I don't approve of or support piracy*. I've thrown many a screaming-embarrassing-to-the-dealer-disrupting-his-business fit in SF dealer's rooms when I've found piracy going on. I've also chided fans I know for flagrant zine copying. But we can't stop it. The yelling's been going on since before SW fandom even existed. I think it's time we stopped kvetching and sought solutions that address any underlying problems. It's not going to get better as the digital age progresses. 'Nuff said.

(And, Nora, this is all directed to the subject, not you. You just happened to have the first comments in my SE.)

Yvette: Regarding droid bigotry, it's not so surprising. To quote *Godspell*: "Someone's got to be oppressed." <g> (e-mail standard "grin") Seriously, try reading Fredric Pohl's wonderful short story "The Day After The Day The Martians Came". Beautiful and haunting. I completely agree with you about "hardcopy" being obsolete for most things in the future. I hated the scene in ST VI where they're scrambling through paper dictionaries to find Klingon words. Pleease.

Marti: As usual, several excellent points. Thank you for bringing up the issue of LoCs. I sorely miss them. And so do my writers. I agree with you that we should "live and let live," however, I confess I wouldn't mind a bit more "truth in advertising" on the level of graphic violence and sex in some zines. I once picked up a zine on the strength of an editor telling me it was simply a strong, political-based story, only to put it down after the third gang-rape. Most editors are very good about letting me know about slash, but rather lax on graphic violence and sex content. What do you think of using the ol' movie ratings system to describe our zine content and putting it in our ads? I admit I've been lax in tagging my zines. I'll try to do better in the future.

Debbie: Thanks for the movie update. I kind of doubt they'll marry Indy to Marion, since Spielberg hates working with Karen Allen. Too bad. She was the best match of all the women they've used in the series.

For the entire Eastern Enclave: I hereby light a candle and offer a prayer that you finally get spring!

Now will somebody please bring the sun back to Houston!

Liz: Your editing tips and guidelines should go on every editor's wall! Han smuggling Tatooine Perrier?!? I love it! Now who can I get to write it? Your comments on naming things are terrific and I agree with Cheree, "zinelegging" is a lovely word.

Maggie: Regarding strong women, I heartily recommend everyone read *Hardball for Women* by Pat Heim. It discusses the cultural differences between the way men and women are raised, particularly the games they play, its results in a corporate (and certainly military & political) environment. As for the liquid in Chewie's cell ... I really wish you hadn't brought it to my attention or given it such a plausible answer. Euuuww!

Tina: When they did the back-to-back trilogy of SW in Dallas (way back in 1985 or so), Jeanine Hennig and I embarrassed ourselves (okay, we weren't embarrassed; I don't think the two of us actually embarrass.) by adding some comments *sotto voce*. Some of them have stuck. To this day, whenever Luke shouts "Ben, why didn't you tell me?", I have to answer "Lighten up, Luke. You take everything too seriously." (Hey, don't blame me. That was Jenni's.) And in ANH, "But I was going to Tosche Station" is answered "Don't whine, Luke." I won't go into the response in the Luke & Leia chat outside the Ewok hut ... by now, I've corrupted about a dozen people into doing it. We just need some cool dances.

Jacqueline: This is certainly *not* winning the shortest letter contest, but bless you for reading history and political science.

Catriona: Hear, hear! As much as I love Luke, I too object to Luke being portrayed as superhuman. Obviously, the Force cannot solve everything, nor does it let you see everything in future or give you instant wisdom. Otherwise, Obi-Wan and Yoda wouldn't have fubarred so much. I figure Luke's still got a lot to learn about life in general and relationships in particular. Regarding your comments concerning -- uh, well, uh, you know, "size matters not" ... I fair blush. What a wickedly warped mind you have! Why haven't you sent me a story? As for the Organas' position on Alderaan, I've always seen it as similar to that of the Dutch royal family, which allows for a certain normality in lifestyle. Although, I don't know if any of them have political aspirations or activities.

Catherine Churko: I'm glad you listened to Wanda. She's a wise woman and you are a wonderful artist who has no reason to beat up on herself -- ever. As for not making the Society of Illustrators Show, I know it hurts, but a lot of that may have to do with politics and money. Very glad to hear your dad is doing better.

And my apologizes to everyone I've missed in

responding. My apologies also for the length of this missive. It was suppose to be short -- honest. It's not my fault!

STRANGE. ISN'T IT?

Nora L. Mayers
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Washington, DC 20033-0193

Sixty-one days; one thousand, four hundred and forty-six hours, eighty-seven thousand, eight hundred and forty minutes until MediaWest. But who's counting?

WELL! My New Year started with an interesting twist! My horse, Oz, came in lame from the field on New Year's Day and the vets thought he'd broken his leg. A month later they determined he had bone disease (and the month delay didn't help!). They were convinced he wouldn't live through the surgery (he did), and are now uncertain whether he'll be rideable, but I'm convinced that Oz can do anything! Here's to A New Hope! The Arabian Strikes Back? Return of the Gelding! I was astonished (again) by the outpouring of support I received from friends (they keep coming through, the little dickens!), and I'm convinced that SW fans are the best people in the galaxy.

Pat Grant: Another Ian Malcolm fan? You're the only other one I've come across! But I think he's terrific -- an iconoclastic voice of reason and intellect. Who'd ever expect this macho guy in leather and chains to know how to pronounce his own name, let alone be an expert on chaos theory? I think that *may* be one reason Hammond didn't listen to him -- outside of the fact that he so desperately wanted his park to work.

Yvette Ghilan: Strange, isn't it, that Kenobi of all people escaped the Jedi purge? You'd think he'd be the one Vader would be after first and foremost!

Mary Jo Fox: It was great seeing you and the rest of the Swarsies at the trilogy party, too! I'm looking forward to this upcoming Indy trilogy party, and think we ought to do this sort of thing more often! I'll even come on time next time. I'm delighted that you and Yvette are collaborating on a Leia 'zine -- 'bout time Her Highnessness got her own! Incidentally, I believe that Han Solo is basically a nice, decent man hiding beneath wisecracks and bravado, but some of those 'zine story departures are fascinating! Stretches the imagination a bit, even though I may not always adhere to the philosophies. If a story is well-written and revolves around a believable plot, I don't have a problem with something a little more on the Dark Side. Although not a darksider story, my favorite fan trilogy (by the splendiferous Ellen Randolph/aka Melanie Rawn) made

Han a Jedi -- a fannish plot I usually abhor! But she wrote it with enough of a twist, while still maintaining Han's personality, that I thoroughly enjoyed it. I supposed if a story's well written, I don't mind the author taking license. It's when the story is poorly written and also offers an off-the-wall theory that I cringe. For instance? Mary Jean Holmes wrote a story turning Han into an Ewok! And it was *funny*! And good! But, I'd shudder to think of too many other writers attempting that plot line!

As for Ewoks? I don't dislike them because they're cute. I dislike them because they're annoying!

Cheree: All right, Kiddo, get to work on that story idea! What do you mean you have a letterzine to put together and a 'zine to edit? Get to it before I haul out the vibrolash!

Liz Sharpe: Small world, innit? You not only worked at the same law firm I do, but your boss was an associate of my boss! I never cease to marvel! It was good talking to you, and I'm looking forward to meeting you at the Indy Trilogy Party. I assume you're coming to Media West this year, too? Hmm?

Brian Harris: All right, give. We all want to know *why* you know that being hit with a kitchen skillet hurts.

And on that painful note, I close. See you all in the next SE, if not in Lansing!

SHINING LIGHT

Z. P. Florian
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Falls Church, VA 22004

Hi -- I am not trying to be short this time. Too much to say -- great opinions in the last issue.

First of all, thanks for all the compliments on my writing tips -- and I owe a big thanks to you, Barbara Anderson, because you took the idea to new highs. I shall try the "chinese menu" approach!

Second -- to Tammy Olsen and others who feel that in "Lord of Darkness", etc., Luke raped Lil ... have mercy for the poor male! How I wish I had done a better job with that scene. It was she who wanted him, seduced him, offered him something the poor naive boy thought would transcend everything. He was sure that their lovemaking meant as much for her as for him, that it was much more than sex, that he had gained a friend, an ally, a lover. In that very dark moment, he might have been a bit rough on her, but I am extremely conservative in this matter: where I'm coming from, a woman asking for sex can't be considered raped. Lil is the daughter of a female-dominated society and Luke

wasn't her first. She was, however, the first for Luke. He was the one having the disadvantage in a situation totally new for him. Okay, he was in a lousy mood (he had every reason to be) and instead of nobly hiding his anger, he allowed her to feel it, and okay, he should've opted for "coitus interruptus" and he did not -- if he committed a sin, that was it. But I know the difference between sex, lovemaking and rape -- that was not rape.

Back to other matters: I agree with Michelle Malkin, lumping "smut, pornography and homosexuality" in one pile is quite offensive. About smut in the SW universe: yes, SW is a wonderful fantasy, where there is a genuine, shining purity in heroism, sacrifice, determination and love. Without this, there is no SW. But this shining light is not something the characters are naturally born with. Anakin was a Jedi and became a monster. Han was a money-hungry smuggler and became a hero and a man capable of love. Nobel heroism is bloody hard to do -- besides, it's only worth something if it's not coming cheap. Someone said quite a while ago that the lamb that strayed and came back is dearer to the master than the one that had never strayed. (Hmm, and I don't even believe this is fair.) Anyway, white shines best compared to black. And sometimes, well, some stories are just fun. For someone with a sense of humor, a story could be a good joke -- for someone else, it could be an undecipherable pile of dirt. Let's not try to tell each other what to think. After all, we all love the Saga: somewhere deep inside of us, it touched a nerve. Maybe not the same nerve in all of us. So what? Only really bad stories are offensive.

Yvette Ghilan: Re Kenobi doing an okay thing by lying to Luke. Imagine the following scene:

Sunset. Ben Kenobi sits in his darkened hut. Young Luke appears, his face shining with excitement.

Luke: "Master Kenobi, I've done it! I avenged my father's death! I have killed Darth Vader!"

Ben: "That's really great, Luke. Just let me correct a little misunderstanding. You have not avenged your father, my boy, you have killed him. I hope you don't have anything against patricide. It's no big deal."

No, it's not okay to goad a young man to kill his own father. There is no such sacred end that justifies the means. Nothing ever justifies injustice. I can forgive Ben, but I can't agree with him. Besides, Luke knew better. He knew that Vader had good in him. Kenobi simply didn't trust Luke, thought him too young, too ignorant. He was mistaken. The young are often more brilliant, more clear-sighted than the old -- maybe because the young are often truly pure and able to believe in good, while the old are bitter and believe in evil. I like smut, for spice, but I'm an idealist at heart ... as most of you already noticed.

Debbie Kittle: Yeah, the "smutzine" will be tastefully done, thanks for the credit beforehand. I received some really great stories.

Spice: Now we know what spice is! Cigarettes will soon be banned all over the U.S. -- but they will be still legal in other countries, so a smuggler smuggling them would be a criminal only inside the border, and an upstanding merchant as soon as he had crossed.

Liz Sharpe: Loved your ideas about naming alien things. Perfect guidelines.

Maggie Nowakowska: Thanks for the added category -- cultural shifts? Hmm ... the rebels returning to civilization to find that the newly liberated galaxy is in the thrall of a false prophet? Or that no one wears earphone-hair anymore? Or that marriages between Alderaani and Corellians have been outlawed?

I think I have been long enough. I'm looking forward to MWC and all the new zines.

ALDERAANI ROYALTY

Jacqueline Taero
Ozone Layer
Planet Earth

Well, since I apparently didn't win anything with my entry in the "shortest letter sweepstakes", I make no promises concerning brevity this time around. There were some intriguing ideas put forth in the last issue...

Cheree Cargill: What a fascinating thought you had concerning the possibility of a high-tech society arising outside of the Old Republic and taking it over. That would explain a lot of seeming inconsistencies in the SW universe.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your suggestion that there was no formal "fleet" in existence prior to Palpatine makes a lot of sense, as does the idea that the Alliance's curious structure owes its existence to the haphazard way it came about. Question: Can this concept be related to or reconciled with Cheree's high-tech v. medieval scenario? (I think there's a story there -- would someone please write it?)

On a somewhat related note, I've always assumed -- although it did strain credulity -- that the fall of the Jedi and the rise of the Emperor/Empire were more or less simultaneous. Possibly coordinated with each other, involving the same players, part of one vast conspiracy. Now I'm wondering if I'm mistaken about that. Were these events independent of each other?

Did Darth's supposed "fall" and the destruction of the Jedi order have any actual connection to the rise of the Emperor? Did the Emperor and Darth even know each

other at that point, or did their association originate later on? (We know the Emperor has weird powers, but did he really have any relationship to the Jedi? What if Palpatine merely took the home study course in Force management?)

Catriona Campbell: Excellent question regarding the status of the Organa family. I've always supposed, perhaps erroneously, that Alderaan's governmental structure was something resembling a constitutional monarchy. Comparing Alderaan to Great Britain presents some amusing possibilities, however. (Tabloid headline: "Bail's Adopted Daughter Caught in Compromising Situation with 'Scruffy Nerfherder'! We Have the Holos!")

Seriously, something has always bothered me about Alderaan's royal family: Bail Organa is referenced as the Viceroy of Alderaan. Not King, not Ruler (not even Prince, interestingly enough), but Viceroy. By definition, that suggests a secondary role. Secondary to whom? The Emperor? Wouldn't that indicate that Palpatine bestowed the title on Bail? Why? We know that Darth suspects the Organas of treason, so wouldn't the Emperor also be suspicious? If so, why leave Bail in an official position of power? And if it is *not* an Imperial title, who is the ruler for whom Bail is viceroy?

Another point concerning Alderaan's royalty: What if this planet is not unlike certain Earth nations where princes and princesses are a credit a dozen? If that is the case, Leia's status may not be as exalted as we've been led to believe. Perhaps her only real claim to fame, pre-ANH, was that her adoptive father managed to snare an Imperial title and bought her a seat in the Senate to get her out of his hair.

You have a very good point about the incongruity of Leia fighting for a democratic galactic government if her family does, in fact, rule Alderaan single-handedly. (*But* -- are the rebels, particularly higher-ranking members like Leia, really fighting for democratic government as we understand the concept -- or do they merely want to get the Emperor's nose out of their planetary business? We're assuming that it's the former ... but assumptions are not necessarily fact. Consider the Gulf War and Kuwait's royal family. There's a vast gap between public perception/official propaganda and what reality turned out to be.)

Veronica Wilson: Great question about Rebel and Imperial fighter pilots in a neutral setting having more in common with each other than with their superiors. Not only possible, but probable. A large percentage of fanfic, and even canonical SW, has a tendency to regard all rebels or all Imperials as homogenous groups, which hardly seems likely; using fanfic to explore possible class, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic differences in

the SW universe is something I heartily applaud. It's a large galaxy -- it *deserves* exploration.

Mary Jo Fox: I would like to think that fandom has always had -- and will continue to have -- a place for both those who prefer the lighter approach and those who want something a bit heavier to chomp on. Some of the very earliest SW fanfic went lightyears beyond the simplistic outlook of ANH. And why not? There's room for fantasy *and* realism, cynicism *and* optimism, light and dark and every shade of grey in between.

Tim Blaes: The first time I remember hearing about the so-called Supreme Intellect was in a magazine interview with Richard Marquand. I think it may have been in *Starlog*.

Re Leia's skittishness, this is applicable only in situations involving sexual attraction. You're right in stating that Leia wasn't skittish with Luke, Lando, Dodonna or Rieeken -- but none of those relationships seemed to have a sexual element for Leia. Even before knowing she was Luke's sister, her attitude toward him seems sisterly, or perhaps that of a concerned friend. Luke certainly viewed her in a sexual/romantic context, but there's little to suggest that Leia held the same view of him -- the only time she even seems fully aware of Luke is of the opposite sex is in the medical unit when she exploits Luke's presence to retaliate against Han's gloating remarks. She immediately pegs Lando as an untrustworthy opportunist given to excessive flattery, a type with which her rank has probabaly given considerable experience. Her skittish behavior surfaces only in dealing with Han, a relationship which does seem to involve a definite sexual attraction.

Louise Turner: Enjoyed your remarks concerning SW promotions and lack thereof, especially your marvellous "alternate take" on events at Yavin.

Z. P. Florian: Praise from the creator of the Zornom is high praise indeed. Thank you. Incidentally, I hereby place the slightly warped prequel scenario from my SE#37 letter in the public domain -- if anyone's crazy enough to want to use it, go right ahead.

Brian Harris and others affronted by my comments re Kenobi and technology: Peace, children. 'Twas meant to be satire.

Anyone and Everyone: Some interesting ideas regarding SW universe art. Now, what about literature? Is there, as Veronica Wilson asked, fiction which transcends planetary boundaries? Does the written word exist? If so, how many can read it? In late 20th century technology-oriented America, we have a frightening number of illiterate citizens -- even more scary is the fact that, among those who are literate, a startling number *choose* not to read. Does this fact have a parallel in the SW universe and, if so, what are the implications?

For that matter, what percentage of the SW universe population is technologically illiterate (*i.e.*, unable to program their VCRs) and what are the implications of that? Was technological illiteracy on the part of the general population one of the ways and means by which the Empire gained and/or maintained its power? Are the droids present only to act as cheap labor, or is their primary purpose to interact with and control the technology that the average citizen can't comprehend or use effectively?

Anyone and Everyone Again: Personally, I have a real problem with the scene in *Jedi Search* wherein Luke claims that the New Republic can't survive without a new order of Jedi. Question #1: Why not? Question #2: Just how are these new Jedi supposed to accomplish this monumental feat? Question #3: If the New Republic is so shaky and unstable that only a new order of Jedi can save it, how is it going to survive long enough for the new Jedi order to be formed? And last but not least, Question #4: If the New Republic is as pitiful as Luke makes it sound, does it even deserve to survive? Just thought I'd ask.

GRATIFIED

Amanda Palumbo
PO Box 397
Lake Peekskill, NY 10537

May 18, 1994

Hello and Hoth-emerging salutations to all! Forget the costuming intricacies for now -- I'm endeavoring to construct a viable taun-taun. For those stricken with equally horrific difficulties, Force help us all! Hell, we're tough -- we're *Star Warriors* (opening fanfare, please).

I am gratified to have stumbled upon this Forum -- surrounded by a non-SF crew can be debilitating at times! Naturally, in honor of the emerging Spring's energies, just couldn't let all those viewpoints go to waste...

Yvette: Your works draw the moth to the eternal flame! Can't wait for *Snowfire* to be published. Go, Leia!

Your assessment of Obi-Wan in SE#38 rang true and was as complex as any I've seen! Would love to build a story out of that! About our culture's paranoia concerning droids, and the Revered One's (Asimov) influence on related material, that intangible quality of "soul" has been eloquently portrayed in *Silvermetal Lover* by Tanith Lee, published by DAW Books.

Slipstream also deals with that elusive quality in an intriguing fashion. Hey, Han charging the stormtroopers is still one of my all-time favorite scenes! Solo could pull it off!

Marti: Your stories present fascinating ideas! That is the hallmark of great works! I have to say that your idea of Luke's sterilization (it is, unfortunately, logical from the Empire's POV) made me cringe. No, I don't believe everybody should procreate -- that's an individual life-choice! -- but as one who's charged around the galaxy while working two jobs since age 15 until my 2nd pregnancy at 31 (1st was 30), I can honestly say that they provided an emotional involvement, and given Luke's "dysfunctional" family history, I can't help but think the same might be true for him, too. If he meets that "special someone", kids can be a logical extension of that love. He seems like he'd be a good father. I wasn't around little ones either until later in life, and you *do* survive! Never know -- he might secretly fantasize about having a family!

Which naturally brings me to ...

Z. P. Florian: I am one of the many who appreciates your singularly unique points of view ("...In Another Galaxy" -- WOW) as presented in your epic mini-tomes and fantastically exuberant illos of the wild side of our Jedi Child! Your mind is living proof that one *can* inhabit infinite numbers of warped dimensions at once. I pay homage to the vociferous Force churning within!

Catriona: My young life had been made when travelling solo. I'd finally reached the shores of Bonnie Scotland in 1980. "Perchance to dream," indeed! A turning point in my all-alone-on-my-own-at-16 life had been reached while perched atop a lonely, windswept hill in Edinburgh overlooking the Firth of Forth with only the ruins of an unfinished Parthenon for company. Extremely rare tears misted my eyes then as they did recently upon reading "Gathering Shadows". Had to remind myself that the pall cast over my soul was an alternate vision. Once again, Scotland moved me, stirring Shadows and Light.

P.S. Depeche Mode rules!

P.P.S. Luke gets the girl in some of my fic!

P.P.P.S. Ho-Ho's saved my broke stomach during several NYC cons in the 70's and 80's. Walla-Walla Clams & Tartar w/ Chips!

Veronica: "Unlikely Allies" accomplishes a feat that only those two strong characters could have. Strange, but likely bedfellows, given their situation. Leia *does* have an electric effect on people! Also, given the nature of the Force, it is possible that Leia would be simultaneously drawn to and repelled by her then-unknown-sire. Glad to see D.V. more than the usual "I-hate-you-let-me-crush-your-trachea-down-to-the-aveoli-

sacs" cardboard standup.

Hey, Twinkies provide my inspiration, too! Invert one and see the Deathstars protruding creamily in the filled spots! Oops -- storyline emerging! Golden Twinkie and Ho-Ho's salute to you, Vader Purveyor. P.S., I concur -- Leia fought being swept off her feet, then killed the Grav to dance with Han in luv's Zero-G.

Tim: This "Jedi Collector" loves to frolic with her Micros and Bend-'Em's, too -- what, never seen my photos of "Scenes from a Demented Kitchen"? (Mary Jo, testify -- verify please!) Why should my girls have all the fun? Oh, and yes, regular scotch tape will hold Star Destroyers in position on your wall as equally strapped X- and B-Wings (2 pc. ea) and *Falcon* fly in hot pursuit. Leia just drop-kicked ol' Palpie on my window sill ("nobody smokes my brother and gets away with it") while Chewie's in a classic "Dr. Smith" pose, etc., *ad dementia*.

Naw, employing "immaculate conception techniques" can only defuse an occurring situation and diminish the surging Force. Until then, only the usual advanced methods will have to suffice.

Wedge is featured prominently in my own trilogy -- he is an ace starfighter, and obviously a friend of Luke's. Rogue pilots have to stick together! Reds 5 & 3 rule!

Vonda McIntyre managed to do justice to "Hikaru" Sulu in *Entropy Effect*. I heartily agree with your assessment of the supporting casts' predicament in ST and SW. But why can't Uhura be a multi-faceted, extremely talented person like many fanfic contributors?

Maggie: Mary Jo and I may just make your "Rocky Horror" dreams come true ... Time is fleeting...

You *must* have driven from Connecticut to Florida, too. Full bladders always take precedence. Given the Wookiee's size, though, better man the lifeboats!

Tammy: Sister dear, *little Luke*?! I liked *The Guyver* when I stopped taking it seriously. Spoofed the old 50's B's.

Leia thawed in TESB, too. She suffered just as much as Luke, what with witnessing and obviously feeling responsible for Alderaan's destruction. Then, her love's carbonite entombment and, if that wasn't enough, she only had to fly to Endor's moon to learn of her true sireage. Though delivered by a most palatable messenger, that could've been the final photon!

Yes, we would have to kill she who would remove our Jedi's potency. Take heart, though. Luke can utilize the Force to reverse the condition in order to *rise* to the occasion. We Sisters understand the true nature of the Force, don't we?

Brian: Nice to see us fellow musicians well-represented! Did you catch the recent annular eclipse in the midday? Yes -- *Tales of the Jedi* does indeed ROCK!

Now all we have to do is lobby for several TOJ anthologies to be on tap!

Jacqueline: Your limericks and poetry both doth this 'twixt & 'tween ailin' soul goood. "Candle..." especially singed m'hide. Please keep feeding your mt. spring into the SW well!

A. G. Steyn: Auuugggh! Your talents are so blinding! Gimme my infra-reds! So ... where *is* your "hat"? Hey, you're an artist -- am I the only one who picked up the similarities in jawline and eye are in Luke and Beru? Even the eyes, though hers were dimmer with farmwork. Hairline positions, too.

"...child of Anakin & Ben K.?" Just *how* was that accom-- Never mind, I forgot who I'm dealing with.

From your LoC, I can only deduce that you are one warped MUG!

See, us USA drivers are crazier than the Autobahn DartPaters; glad to hear you emerged unscathed -- we'd all have to deal with you hanging around our typewriters and charcoals.

That *hand* was the stunt double in the *Addams Family*. It moves just like Luke's left. Force be with you, charcoal extraordinaire!

Mary Jo: Princess Power -- *Snowfire's* gonna rule! Han's 100% Rule-Cool, too. When one's been stomped on enough by life, gotta stomp back. Took *him* to capture the intrepid Princess' heart.

Girl, you can *write*! Montalban wants the lead and Wicket the Tatoo (mohawk that fur) so's they can croon SuperNovae of Love, too! *Blue Harvest* #3! BH#3! *Get it off the presses for me!*

Does anybody realize that Leia is the one who actually drew the gang into the tangled web? Obi was "only" the catalyst.

Aw, *every* song and crack in the woodwork reminds me of SW!

Hey! Let's give them what they want ... *Let's do the time warp again...* Time is fleeting... Shall DM rate the title track? Oh, Llluukkkee -- have we got a "Satanic Mechanic" for you!

1010% concurrence! Lovely Be the Eyes of the SW w/lovely shades of Blue and Brown for thee and me.

Oh, my, Cheree... Without you none of this would be possible. Without computer access, or even the necessary knowledge, this is us off-lines' only recourse/ source for fan to fan interaction. I can never repay you this gift. As Bonner the Orion Novelist once said, "Let me help." Positive vibes to you -- hang tough just a little longer. Light *must* soon cancel the Dark. I can promise you this. Meantime, immerse the grey matter into the red bacta. 21 saber salute to you!

Force with y'all -- let's close the fan schism while we can. It's *UUUUSSS!*

Susan Zahn
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June 15, 1994

Never let it be said that Sue Zahn was ever afraid to jump into the middle of a conversation! I'm here, I'm hyped, and I'm in the pink (for those of Peggy Sue fandom). Or more like 'in the red' since that little jaunt to MediaWest. Oh well, easy come, easy go.

I'll admit, this is the first time I've actually written to SE, although I've always supported it in one way or another (sadly not always monetarily). After having felt like I was sort of out of active fandom for the past year or two -- a year in Europe, no matter how much I enjoyed it, still put a crimp in fannish activity -- I decided to make up for it at Lansing this year. I consciously pulled back from the role-playing, intending to dedicate more time to meeting scads of new people, reviving my friendships with the old ones (no offense, guys!) and basically try to pin down why MediaWest has become such a pinnacle in my life. (Many thanks to Irina Ozerney. If you're reading this, kiddo, you get a lot of credit for helping to revive my energy. I want a copy of that video!) At the cost of possibly neglecting those friends within FOE (to whom I should also appologize), I actually attended a number of panels!! I don't regret it a bit! My conclusion? MediaWest, for me, boils down to a meeting of friends-cum-family, a unique union of minds, a whirlwind of pure creativity, good humor and bad puns, chocolate, and a healthy dose of hormones. Anyone else?

Pat Nussman: Sorry about the "We're not worthy!!"s, but you're dealing with someone who's admired your work from the first zine she ever picked up. Nonetheless, it was a pleasure to finally meet you.

Tina Bentrup: Also, wie gehts? Ich habe nicht gewußt, das du Deutsch versteht hätte! Wir müssen wieder zusammen treffen, und Deutsch sprechen, ja?

Love your ideas for SW chess pieces; obviously you put more thought into them than they did. How about the *Falcon* and an X-wing for the White Rooks? Oh, and it was great to see you again. Beejay will definitely have to jump in the poker game next time. We could cheat in German and they'd never know . . .

Excellent comment about spice. I've always considered it as some type of extremely rare mineral that the Empire took control of early on, and then regulated its release to the public -- thus a semi-legal product, as long as you bought it from an official agent of the Empire. This could create a gray-market, with smuggling possibilities, and yet allow for legal means of sale as

well.

Jacqueline Taero: Loved your poem in -- aw, rats, I can't find which zine it's in! The one in which Leia tries to explain to her children how she's her own grandma or whatever. Your works are always a treat.

About timepieces, I seem to remember Leia wearing some type of wristband in ROTJ, Lando with a similar contraption in TESB (no doubt more than just a com), and take a close look on the left sleeve of Leia's thermal suit in TESB -- maybe that funky little addition is more than simple insignia. Granted, they aren't *mentioned*, but how many mundane items do you talk about on a regular basis? They never mention a toilet either, but we can hardly assume that one doesn't exist. While Douglas Adams likes to think that we're fascinated with digital watches, half the time I'd love to ditch mine in Lake Mendota.

Veronica Wilson: Great to meet you at the con! Next time I'll bring the whiskey and mix them myself. And once again congrats on the Star Award. That story ranks among my most favorite, and I never even considered myself a Vader fan -- but he's so *human*! Now that I'm out of the closet about being a Leia fan, too, I'm not afraid to admit that I didn't miss Solo at all, although I still love to think that her experiences with Vader could only prepare her for dealing with Han when he's at his most -- scoundrest!

Liz Sharpe: Ah HAH! You *do* have a new SW story idea to write. We're waiting. You'd definitely have to take it all the way -- Leia's reaction to learning she's fallen for a clone, and maybe Han's hurt for the fact. But wouldn't Luke notice? Ah, burn that bridge when you get to it -- just write the damned thing!

Glad we got to talk at the con -- certainly had *lots* of time to kill while waiting at Denny's! Maybe I should've kept my blaster and we'd have gotten faster service.

Brian Harris, Tim Blaes, and Gerald Crotty: Hate to clump you guys into one group, but I just wanted to say that I'm glad you're here and speaking out. Up until about 2 years ago, the only *active* SW fans I knew were female. There have been a few exceptions along the way (Scotty Perkins, Jim Markle, and of course Mark Fisher) but for the most part women dominated the zine field. I guess they still do.

Oh well. What I've noticed, having also met male fans (non-active), is the sometimes very different viewpoint they tend to have towards the saga. (Sigh, I'm *trying* not to categorize here, so please bear with me.) I've got the impression that the characters, particularly their inter-relationships, are less important than the technical aspects of the SW universe. I firmly believe Zahn's (no relation, thank you!) books are a perfect example. Technology took precedence over people, since

the starships, etc., no longer simply served a purpose, but became the driving force behind the story. I've also noticed that there seems to be more male fans of Zahn's books than female, which would help to support my theory of preference according to gender. I have no doubt that many men probably state the reverse about female fans -- we're only here to drool, etc., and I admit that nearly everything I've written deals with Han and Leia. *However*, what I've learned after reading your LoCs (and talking with Brian especially) is that, again there are exceptions. Thank the Maker! Rather than drawing lines with Science Fiction and men on one side, and Science Fantasy and women on the other, we can always hope and work towards a pleasant union of the two (ahem!). Right? Write! (So *please*, no nasty letters. I didn't intend to start a war -- I'm just curious about the obvious extremes of opinions regarding Zahn's books, and how they tend to be related to gender.)

Charyl Perry: It was nice to meet you. Wish we could've talked more, but plan on it next year. Give me your E-mail address, and I'll drop a line or two. It's always flattering to be asked (attacked?) for contributions, so I'll see what I can do.

Brown paper bag titles: How about *Get on Top of It*, or *Curse My Metal Body*, *I Wasn't Fast Enough*. Maybe *It Could Be Worse*.

Marti Schuller: It was great to see you again -- how long ago was that? 1988?

I agree with your opinion regarding the Endor Luke/Leia scene. So sue me, but I actually *liked* that scene -- one of the very few, I must add. Of course, I had to write a 'gap filler' to rationalize it, but even so, while it's still a far cry from super character development, it's better than nothing, guys!

I think *my* favorite scenes from ROTJ are Leia's release of Solo from the carbonite, and when she's found by Wicket (but that's *it* for the Ewoks). Leia got to demonstrate her independence, strength and unique personality.

General Junk: Who said they'd taped the SciFiC special on the making of all three movies, hosted by Carrie Fisher? I'd kill for a copy of the entire thing! *Please*, drop me a note. If you don't have a way of dubbing, let me know and I'll figure out another way.

RE: This resurrected issue of "appropriate" stories and artwork by fans. Frankly, guys, *this* type of argument is exactly why I'm so involved in fandom to begin with; this is the type of "mundane" silliness I'm trying to get away from. I'm of the firm conviction that, while "PC"ism and Conservatism may be at ideological extremes, in practice they're exactly alike. They both result in censorship, oppression of ideas and creativity, and only increase the division of ranks. Is that what we

want among fandom? Well then, we must practice that which we keep preaching in our SW fiction -- tolerance of different beliefs, acceptance of the fact that even though we've all seen the same films, every single one of us will interpret it according to our own unique point of view (sorry, Kenobi), and most important, the *right* to freedom of choice. Lively debates are integral to a healthy fandom, just as constructive criticism is important to better writing, but we must also demonstrate restraint when it comes to *exerting* personal opinions. If I'm in an art museum and I see something I don't care for, it's my right to say "blech!" and walk away, but it's not my right to deny it from someone else, simply because I didn't like it.

I would hope we could all be adult about this, and realize that we're all different -- in tastes, in beliefs and in what we see as "truth". 'Nuff said.

Nora Mayers: So, what's a Dead Bothan do, anyway? Do we get to do nifty handshakes?

Cheree: Howdy! Glad to see you again. Say 'hi' to Katy for me. If she keeps drawing those dinosaurs, she'll be ready for whenever some eager editor hunts her down for Jurassic Park illos! How's the pet rock? ((Ed: Hey, I get first dibs on her! I need artists for my zines, too!))

I'd better sign off now. Greetings to everybody else, enjoy a cool summer, and hey, if *anybody's* ever up in my neighborhood (swing a left at Tatooine), you've got a place to crash. I can only take so much mundanity!!

NOT FLOODED OUT

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April 13, 1994

This will be a very brief LoC (quit yelling hooray), as I am battling with a sickness that hasn't decided on what it wants to be when it grows up. My back hurts, my limbs are leaden, my throat is raw, my parotid glands hurt, I can't think straight (as if I ever had been able to), and I think I'm running a fever. If this is another flu, then it's the 4th one within 6 months. Somebody please shoot me...

Everybody did of course see the Academy Awards night. But no, rumors are unverified that "Wonder-Stevie" and Harrison are divorcing their wives then going to Denmark to tie the knot. Although I would die to throw rice at 'em and kiss the bridegroom. (Sit down, Z. P. Florian -- I was just joking. No need to buy tickets

to Scandinavia.)

I can hardly believe it but I did finish two stories within the last few weeks. That's amazing, considering my working style and, yes, I would love standing ovations now. I deserve it. Now there's only one left to finish -- but that will have to wait. Next, I'll tackle the illos.

Carrie Fisher was on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno this evening. Of course, you all have seen her, I suppose. Isn't the lady something? Priceless her remarks when the audience went bananas (Han Solo's family) and about the critic's "Vader should have killed her while he had the chance." (Now, c'mon -- I mean, the guy's my father...!) Now I have to get ahold of her new book, *Delusions of Grandma*? Sounds an awful lot like Threepio's "I'm standing here in pieces and you're having delusions of grandeur."

The latest issue of the Lucasfilm Clubzine has a nice interview with Jeremy Bulloch, and I just hope that they will continue running interviews with all the important "secondary" characters in SW. I have it that Jeremy would love to don the helmet again? Great. George, rethink your concept. Make a *sequel* instead of a prequel and show us how Boba Fett escaped from the Sarlacc's intestines and now seeks an eye-to-eye discussion with a certain Jedi. (And this is another idea for a fanzine-story. Hint, hint... Takers please.) ((Ed: See "*Full Circle*" by Carolyn Golledge in *A Tremor in the Force* #3.))

Tammy Olsen: Mark using a double for bed scenes? C'mon, lady. Be serious. After what he obviously pulled on the Howard Stern New Year's Eve show (which I didn't see, of course, but was informed about by the transgalactic secret service)? No way.

And it looks like our darling Jedi is doing *only* weird, weird movies lately. Must have been those blue bolts from Uncle Palpie that fried what little brain there was under the mop of blond hair to a crisp.

Mary Jo Fox: *Everyone* in SW has lovely eyes? So you like 'em yellow and glowing, do you (Palpie, Threepio, Jawas). And what about Darthie? Red is the color of love and passion, huh? But I certainly agree when it comes to Han.

Yvette Ghilan: About the VCR: Aside from some VCRs that can run all kinds of systems but cannot convert one into the other (I have one of those), there is a Panasonic model on the market that can (when connected to a PAL system VCR) convert NTSC into PAL (and vice versa when hooked up to an NTSC VCR). The price is not exactly low (it used to sell here for 2,200 DM, but that was two years ago) -- which is why I didn't buy it. Prices might be more reasonable now.

Living under a dictatorship is never cozy -- but you

would wonder how many people in the former German "Democratic" Republic-provinces wish they had *some* of the old law and order back. This is probably due to the facts that (a) people in general have short term memory banks, and (b) a lot of people do not adapt well to the new "lawlessness", having been told for too long what to do when, where and how.

Debbie Kittle: George didn't want to spoil the fun. Of course he knows who Mrs. Skywalker was. Somebody really small (as Luke and Leia are both on the diminutive side) with big eyes (see Luke) who was strong with the Force ... this can only be Yoda.

Maggie Nowakowska: What would such a participative, Rocky Horror type showing of SW be like? Would the audience throw snowballs during the Hoth scenes?

I agree with your p.o.v. regarding the bulk of professional SW material now available. Collecting things related directly to the original saga (the 3 movies and the novelizations of them) is fine for me. But I -- for instance -- cannot see the need for a compendium (Galaxy Guide) to the Zahn novels. This seems a bit far-fetched. And what about those books describing all sorts of planets that never appeared in the original saga? C'mon -- every halfway decent hobby author can dream up planets, worlds of his own. So, unless they come up with vivid descriptions of Imperial City, Alderaan or other interesting "canon" places, I think I'll skip.

And I love your answer to Pat Nussman about there possibly being no Republican Star Fleet. I had never really thought about this, but your ideas about the structure of the Old Republic makes sense. And think about how difficult it would be to consolidate a galactic fleet from local vessels of a zillion different planets. Remember Han's remark (ROTJ) to Chewie about the shuttle *Tydirium*: "I don't think the Empire had Wookiees in mind when they designed her, Chewie." A ship designed for and by Wookiees would, of course, have totally different dimensions than one made for humans. Imagine a shorty like Luke trying to get comfy in a pilot seat made for an 8 ft. giant. (Maybe wooden blocks tied under the boots -- in Short Round style -- would help to reach the pedals, kiddo.) A crew exchange from one vessel to another would be highly impractical in such a rag-tag circus. Also, organizing an operating military structure with people from thousands of different cultures is quite a task. Look at the trouble that such (compared to the Old Republic very small) multicultural forces like NATO or -- even worse -- the UN Peace Corps go through. As the saying goes: One bed, 10 people -- and nobody wants to sleep next to the wall!

Veronica Wilson: I find it highly conceivable that Alliance and Imp fighter pilots would enjoy trading

stories in a neutral port. After all, this was what happened in Spanish ports during WWII, where frequently sailors from the Allied Forces and from the Axis powers shared wine, women and song, only going to battle one another again after leaving the neutral zone.

I also go along with your view of Leia's reaction to Han in TESB. I personally do not think that Leia was still in "mint condition", so to speak, but that the circumstances (which all in all were less than favorable) dictated her somewhat uptight, skittish behavior around Han.

Catriona Campbell: Aside from the unlucky stormtrooper, 3PO in the oil bath, Luke crying "Carrie" instead of Leia, Vader's white sword, there is also this scene on the first Death Star where Han and Chewie, trying to run from the stormtroopers, run/jump through a closing blast door. Watch this scene closely: I bet you my almost mint tauntaun saddle that poor old Harrison lost his footing and landed flat on his face. The way he scrambles through the door, he cannot possibly have landed on both feet in a stable stance.

And in ROTJ, where Luke is kneeling beside the dying Vader: Luke is blinding groping for his daddy's hand -- but in the wrong spot (left upper thigh!). Shame on you, Skywalker. Your own father...

And what about that sabre duel between OWK and DV? Did you notice OWK's lightsabre actually casting a *shadow* on Obi-Wan's tan robe?

And then there is still the proof that spelling is a difficult task. In ROTJ the translation (sub-title) of Jabba's remark to Bousch reads: "My kind of skum!" (Scum with a "k").

Louise Turner: Wedge and Leia have been secret lovers for all these years, huh? That will not bother Han at all. He'll suggest a frisky threesome and they'll live happily ever after. But really, come to think of it -- with women being totally underrepresented in the saga, many of the guys must spend rather lonely nights unless they all live in self-chosen celibacy or are gay. Does anyone think that Veers, Piett, Ozzel, Dodonna, Rieekan, or any other character was married or at least going steady? It seems impossible that there were no couples in the whole galaxy except for Han/Leia and Owen/Beru. The only real families we see are those of the Ewoks. Now, if something like an Ewok can have a family life, why not all the others? ((Ed: What about Chewie's wife Malla, and their son Lumpy, and Chewie's father Itchy, as depicted in the *SW Holiday Special* aired on TV in 1978?))

Tina Bentrup: You worried about me, you little darling? Hey, keep in mind: Sithlords and Germans never die -- they just join the Dark Side of the Force. Actually, we here in Duisburg were lucky. The levees

here are 13 metres high, so this time we were safe. The last really bad flooding that hit our town like a ton of bricks ... uh, water ... were in the early 1920's and then during WWII when the British bombed the dams of the reservoirs along the River Ruhr in the Sauerland mountains and a gigantic tsunami washed down the valley.

This latest flood affected many other towns, tho, both upstream (Cologne, Koblenz) as well as downstream in the Dutch province of Limburg. It was quite bad, but not nearly as severe as the floodings in the midwestern U.S.

Okay, that's it. I can't concentrate any longer and my mind is a blank page. Take care, you all (Wathne, Wingo, Cowan: Quit rocking the boat, girls ... California can't take any more quakes!). Read you all in the next issue.

DEAD BOTHAN SOCIETY

Liz Sharpe
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June 25, 1994

Z. P.: You don't have to worry about trying to be short. You *are*. (Never tempt me with straight lines.) (Okay, okay: you stay on your side of the Potomac and I'll stay on mine...)

The "Eastern Enclave": As of the Mayday Party at my house, the so-called "Eastern Enclavers" more or less adopted the name "Dead Bothan Society." Many thanks to all who were able to attend, and made the day a great pre-MediaWest treat. Those who didn't make it (a) were missed; (b) missed a good thing; and (c) will be expected next time! For those of you at MWC who encountered the Chant ("Both-an! Both-an! Both-an!") or the Handshake ("The only Good Bothan..." "...Is A Dead Bothan!" "Yeah!") well, now you know... Please understand, the name "Dead Bothan Society" is meant with *no* disrespect for the Enclave tradition. (Call us "Eastern Enclave" and we'll answer. Eventually.) We were just looking for something that reflects the offcenter sense of humor this group seems to share. As for any live Bothans out there... that's their problem. Bothan Lore is already accumulating. Debbie Kittle sez that the Dead Bothans are actually a Mos Eisley street gang. Rival gangs are the "Dead Banthas" and the "Womp Rats." Don't show up at our sandbox sporting the wrong colors, y'all! Speaking as the (self-appointed) Head Dead Bothan, I won't be answerable.

It's a Corellian thing. You don't *want* to understand...

((Ed: Hey, is your favorite rock group the Grateful Dead Bothans?))

MediaWest*Con: The Dark Side. I have sent the Holiday Inn and the con organizers a polite but unhappy letter regarding the room lottery system. If you would like a copy of my letter, please let me know and I'll send one along.

MWC: Report From The Light Side. As usual, MWC was terrific! (Don't ask me what I *did*. I had *fun*. All the rest is tarradiddle.) Despite sincere intentions to show up and heckle good friends at numerous panels, I found (after it was all over and the Ohio Turnpike was staring me in the face once more) I hadn't actually manage to attend... *any*. Oops. Every time I lit out purposefully toward the fulfillment of an obligation, wonderful people would rise up in my path and detain me with delightful and fascinating discourse. Once in a while, some nice person led me off for a convivial feed (and yet more engrossing talk). No doubt I missed some good panels (I always learn something from the ones I *do* attend) but it's not such a bad thing, having to choose between fannish delights.

Lessee. Although I'd had a room reserved at the Howard Johnson's across the street, I did end up in the con hotel after all. Yippee! I guess the waiting-list was worth it after all, even though I had to wait until a mere 5 days before the con to find out I was in. Many thanks to all those MWC attendees who patted my young dog (Leaky Pete) and helped show him there's no need to be automatically suspicious of strangers. I now pronounce him officially socialized. (Although he payed *far* too close attention to Carolyn Golledge's whispered sweet Aussie nothings for my long term peace of mind...) To my annoyance, somehow I managed to miss what seems to have been this year's definitive SW theme/role-play party, held Friday night at the (fabulous and better every year!) Forces Of The Empire cantina. (I hope they get this room again next year; it was *the* place to hang out, if you like SF ambiance. The hard work and imagination invested in this project, right down to details of floor and table lighting, *shows*.) Friday night must've been a trip, with all those characters (including multiple Leias?) dancing to "Lapti Nek"! But thank goodness, there were *lots* more fun celebrations well worth calling on. Thanks for your hospitality, Judith Yuenger, Cheree Cargill, the Rebel Breakfast Bunch, and anybody else I've forgotten to remember (as t'were). Congrats to all the deserving people who won Star Awards and Fan Qs. And of course, congrats to all the other deserving folks who happened not to win this time, just 'cause it was somebody else's turn! Us consumer fans appreciate *all* your creative efforts and hard work regardless of the medium you employ: graphic arts, music, zines, letters,

costumes, role-playing. Formal awards are great, but they don't say it all. Also, thanks again to Judith for the dedication, hard work and organizational prowess that makes the SW awards the remarkable success they continue to be. Fwhat else. The blaster battle/role-playing game was more accessible for spectators this year, and caused me endless fascination. There were many excellent hall costumes -- Wanda Lybarger appeared in a number of forms, some elegant (the unicorn) and some, er, remarkable (the insect), all meticulously and gorgeously crafted and each with a different body language (which really makes the impact of a costume dramatic). How many of y'all caught Nora Mayers' Sand-People (Tusken Raider) persona? Nice job! Love that atmosphere. The Kathy Hintze wake Saturday night was well attended and warmly emotional. People shared their favorite Kathy stories, nibbled on nosh, and talk ranged over a wide range of topics without anybody actually getting overtly tearful. A positive way of remembering a good person and keeping memory alive. (Sniffle.) I didn't manage to perform my usual oh-dark-hundred-ack-emmaall-encompassingHallCrawl, alas, but I still managed to take in a *lot* of great door decorations. The Sherlock Holmesians continue to produce spectacular effects (this year featured The Falls). The 3-dimensional walk-through mockup of the holodeck entrance gave me a thrilling sensation of actually being on the threshold of There. And of course, the Your Brain On Harrison Ford door was a giggle. I took one look, walked in, and asked for some right-thinking people I was in search of, and most of them turned around right then and said "howdy." There were *lots* of new, promising-looking zines this year, and I got a much more upbeat feeling in general from the Dealers' Room than the past two cons. The Art Show had lots of first class talents new to me. There were some large color (pastels?) of Next Gen and DS9 subjects that were especially striking. Anybody who didn't pay close attention to the minutiae of the large and intricate SW doll display in the FOE Cantina missed (a) some impressively well-executed detail work, and (b) a wide array of hilarious SW in-jokes. (The Golledge Memorial Medical Center, indeed. Is the Han doll *supposed* to come in so little many pieces...?) Anyway, just being at the con is always a treat. I love loitering in the lobby, watching several hundred of my closest friends and enemies milling about, and overhearing *fascinating* snatches of conversation. And I could sit under the lobby skylights for *hours* and listen to ubiquitous and multi-talented Carolyn Golledge play Neat Stuff on the piano. (Glad yer could make it after all, mate!) Time ceases to have the usual relevance. Rivendell. Indeed, yes!

Well, anyway, as usual, I was a euphoric but exhausted whiskey tenor for a week after getting home. When the straights ask me why I perform this annual migration, I reply I probably save \$1500 on my long-distance phone bill by driving to Michigan every year for an in-person blabbathon... See y'all at MWC next year!

Mary Jo Fox: Thanks for the reminder of the importance of the good/evil dichotomy in SW. You're right, the lack of blurring in moral issues was (and is) a key to SW's success. IMO, that's why Obi-Wan's "from a certain point of view" line in ROTJ rings false. SW is not the type of story in which "good" characters can do "bad" things (like deliberately foment parricide, by lying) without incurring dire consequences. It's *not* that the choices the characters must make, and the issues which are at stake, are necessarily *easy* or *simple*. But yes, good and evil have clearly defined, separate roles, and the distinction must be made by the characters, though sometimes the cost is high. That unfortunate line of Obi-Wan's strikes a rare false note. The way *Luke's father* is handled, when he "crosses the line" and aspires-falls-then-repents, is more in keeping with the movie's overall moralistic tone. Depending on his actions, he is transformed so completely that each aspect of his character (light/dark, good/evil) is given a different name (Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader). That's a pretty clear-cut signal to the audience. (And of course, the redemption of Anakin (from definite evil to definite good) is one of the strong core themes that runs through the entire trilogy of films.) And that's one of the reasons we like SW so much: it gives good, clear signals about moral/ethical issues.

Provoking notion: That "certain point of view" line of Obi-Wan's is so out of place... What if he in fact *didn't* say it? (Oh, please! There must be some way to redeem poor Ben!) Could it be a "dark side manifestation" (1) caused somehow (indirectly, perhaps) by His Imperial Yellow-Orbed Tabefaction, or (2) an effect related to Luke's recent bad experience with the tree/cave/tunnel of evil (whatever the heck that place was)... Maybe the Dark Side (or its proponents) is trying to set Luke against his beloved mentors.

Provoking question: Does the Emperor know, or even suspect that Yoda exists? Does Darth Vader? (I'd say not. Y'all?) What might they do (differently) if they did have an inkling of Yoda's existence? (Well, Vader would have a tough time exterminating Yoda -- he'd never fit inside the hut, even if he didn't sink forever in the swamp...)

Speaking of Dagobah matters: I'm curious as to how other people interpret the impact of Luke's line to Ben, when Luke is packing up to depart those hallowed mudpits for the first time. Ben says something to the

effect of, he can't interfere or help Luke with this course of action (going to Bespin). Luke replies, quite seriously, "I understand." The camera cuts directly to Yoda. The little green thing's ears go up, his eyes widen, his mouth opens, and he appears to take a sharp breath. (Not bad acting for a puppet, eh?) How do y'all read Yoda's reaction? My first (and abiding) impression is disbelieving delight: Luke is (not a moment too soon) showing acceptance of responsibility for his own acts; of grasping the essential core (however defined) of the many-faceted lesson Yoda has been trying to teach. As though Yoda (for the first time) entertains a bit of hope that Luke *may* come through the trip to Bespin morally intact after all. (Apart from mere physical dents, dings, and missing members...) Other people read this reaction differently: as dismissal, or irritation, frinstance. "Ears up" is a positive reaction in dogs, cats and horses; maybe I'm reading the wrong thing here. I'd like to see other thoughts on this. Please.

Yvette Ghilan: Even when I agree with the basic thrust of what I think you're trying to say, frankly, your rhetoric leaves a lot of room for improvement. If you're going to take an offensive tone, it would help to at least be logically consistent in your arguments.

"...Han Solo is *not* a criminal." H'mmm. Really? The premise you *appear* to be defending is that Han Solo isn't really a *bad person*. So far, I'm with you. You may develop this argument by proceeding to state that the laws he breaks are unjust, but you should acknowledge that (at least until the Empire is formally overthrown) (and at least *superficially* it appears *originally* to have been a legitimate authority) *they're still laws*. You break the law, you're a criminal. *By definition*. Even if Han isn't really such a bad person, *technically* he's a law-breaker.

However, you're trying to make the jump from "Han isn't a bad man" to "Han isn't a criminal" via the premise "smuggling isn't a crime." Null sequence. You can't get there from here. Not without re-defining the word "smuggle" until it no longer retains its original meaning. Which you do: "smuggling, by definition, is not paying the authorities when transporting merchandise." Sorry, but Webster's 9th Collegiate Dictionary (1983) sees "smuggle" differently: "1: to import or export *secretly contrary to the law* and especially without paying duties imposed by law 2: to convey or introduce *surreptitiously* \approx to import or export something in *violation* of the customs *laws*." Please note that "authorities" are not the same as "law"; nor is "not paying the authorities" the *only* factor involved in determining whether an act is smuggling. Some types of commodities may be legally carried, but only under strict supervision; others are banned outright. If a cargo is subject to monitoring, you

need a license and official approval (which can be more than an issue of money alone). If you don't have official approval (in which case you move your cargo "secretly," "surreptitiously"), that's smuggling. Which is against the law, and therefore criminal. If an item is flatly banned, *no amount of payment* can make transport of such cargo legal. Some mundane examples of banned or highly-regulated materials include: addictive drugs; chemical precursors for explosives/weapons; unique cultural artifacts; intellectual properties; biological pests; security systems; endangered species (or parts or products thereof). In the SW universe (where there's a war on), I'm sure that no amount of payment of duties could possibly make "lawful" the conveyance of normally useful and harmless things such as clothing, food, fuel, band-aids and other basic supplies to groups of traitors (traitors are also criminals, by definition) such as the Rebel Alliance...

Besides, smuggling is only a part of Han's repertoire of unlawful activities. He kills people (from Greedo to Imperial stormtroopers and pilots). He blows up (or helps blow up) capital vessels (from TIE fighters to Death Stars). He bombs government installations. He does business with major figures in organized crime (Jabba) and has personal ties with illicit private entrepreneurs in regulated industries (Lando). All of which is very naughty -- from the authorities' point of view.

In general, I agree with you, that Han is not a "bad man" (a spouse-beater, Wookiee slaver, drug pusher, child molester). But (at least according to the existing laws of his world) he certainly *is* a *criminal*.

SW universe bigotry: "We don't see any bigotry in that galaxy ever directed against any biological beings, but against the unfortunate metal sentients, manufactured to serve the flesh beings."

H'mmm. Really?

Actually, to my mind, the SW movies supply *exactly* the same amount of supporting evidence for the existence of widespread *both* non-human species bigotry *and* anti-droid bigotry. Which is to say, not much evidence at all.

The most concrete example of xenophobic sentiment in any of the three movies occurs in ANH, when the cell block officer on the Death Star curls a lip, looks Chewbacca up and down, and asks, "Where are you taking this... *thing*." You're right though, in general nobody seems to blink at myriad non-humans in the background of a number of scenes. Maybe xenophobia is an Imperial Service thing. Or maybe it was just that particular Imperial officer... Though the Imperial Forces (as shown) certainly do seem to have a collective allergy to employing that other human species: females. Nor do we see any non-humans in uniform (though Vader is

ready enough to employ whatever manages to amble in the way of bounty hunters).

Actually, were it not for the Mon Calamari, you could almost make an argument that the Alliance shows much the same sexist/species discrimination. Even *with* the Calamari, there doesn't seem to be much in the way of integration. And we see no (regular militia) alien fighter pilots (shown); nor any gun-toting female troopers or fighter pilots...

On the other hand, there's really only *one* concrete example of anti-droid bigotry in any of the three movies: the Mos Eisley barkeeper's "we don't serve their kind here." (Implying, perhaps, that there are places that *do* serve droids?) Droids do appear to be slightly more ubiquitous than non-humans: even the Death Star abounds with various types of automata, which seem to be pretty much taken for granted. The *only* character we're shown having a problem with droids is Han, and his expressions of annoyance are actually limited specifically to C3PO. Who is often behaving in a most annoying manner. Han would probably treat a human being who acted the way Threepio does in exactly the same way. Han isn't necessarily displaying *generic* anti-droid bias in his behavior. I don't think *any* other character shows a negative attitude toward droids (unless you count Chewie roaring at the "mouse droid" on the Death Star).

"And primitive guerrillas will defeat great technological powers every time..." I suppose in moral sense, yes. But martyrs are just unusually inspiring dead people. What good is a victory if you're not around to enjoy it..? Could it be said that the Ewoks "defeated" the Empire, if their entire planet was disintegrated by the Death Star II? Every time technology makes another quantum leap, conventional frames of reference must be redefined. This is as true in the world of today's medicine (without modern life support capability, there'd be no need for "living wills") as in the realm of military hardware (at one point, it was thought that ICBMs would render conventional methods of warfare obsolete -- until it became obvious that although nukes could *destroy* a targeted area, they couldn't selectively occupy a strategically desirable location). If the Empire wants to leave Endor inhabitable, its options for "winning" against the Ewoks are more limited, and there's a chance that statement about guerrillas will prove correct. But the definition of what constitutes "winning" is subject to alteration by the participants in any contest, from office gossip to card games to Third World political maneuvering...

Are Ewoks cute? If you accept the vaudevillian interpretation of cute ("short, fat, and ugly") then I suppose they are. However, I dislike Ewoks for better

reasons than their looks. For one thing, Ewoks eat people. (If they can accept Leia so readily into their social group, then they eat *people*, and it's no good pretending they mistook Luke, Han and Chewie -- especially not Chewie! -- for food animals...) Ewoks are fierce, sneaky, obstinate, and superstitious. Plus, Ewoks are aggressive little gits, and they pick bad moments to vent their aggressions. Like right in the middle of an otherwise decent movie I'm trying to watch. There's nothing like having an interminable pitched teddybear battle break out in the middle of a good plot line to put you right off teddybears.

Some of that is facetiously meant.

Ornery question: Is Luke actually related to "Uncle" Owen?

Ornery suggestion: No. Actually, Obi-Wan is Luke's *real* father. Beru is Luke's real mom. She couldn't put up with Ben's high-sounding moral equivocations any more, so she split. Ben couldn't handle the scene, so he developed a personality disorder in which Darth Vader (a prior flame of Beru's) is the star figment. Owen is just a grumpy eunuch Beru took up with to annoy Obi-Wan. Darth Vader is a real bad guy, but a hell of a good psychologist. Anakin is a personality disorder (like father, like son) denial figment developed by Luke (who couldn't handle the stress of Ben's training program, Yoda's training program, getting his hand offed in Darth Vader's training program, and nearly being made to off his mom's old boyfriend in the Emperor's training program). Han is Luke's brother. Leia is also Luke's brother. (There was a little accident back during the Clone Wars.) Beru isn't *really* dead, just kind of cooked. She was rescued by Rebel Jawas just in the nick, and stuffed into an old black leather Sith life support suit they happened to have lying around the tribal sandcrawler. Beru is going to show up any time now (burns and all, breathing raspily through her respirator box) looking for her long-lost son. Is it *ever* going to be complicated inside Luke's head when *that* happens...

Tina Bentrup: I'm not really an "eo" fan, I'm more sort of a "meso" fan. I can natter about certain "eo" events because I was lucky enough to get involved at a time when a lot of the original "big names" were still very active, and not that many controversies had developed (so there wasn't an overwhelming amount of past history to keep track of). Early SW fandom began right after ANH. I got active oh, late in the second wave, after TESB, not too long before ROTJ, when a whole new set of "big names" had joined the original ranks, and SW fandom was well enough established to be developing an advanced case of internal politics. It was *very* entertaining... if you have a rather chaotic sense of humor. (Which I obviously do.) I learned much at the

generous hearths of the real eofen, and mesofen senior to me, and I am ever indebted.

Anyway, you can be an honorary Dead Bothan if you'd like; we could have Beltway Bothans and their far-flung Tennessee kin... C'mon up, next time around. But in the meantime, the nice thing about being a Dead Bothan (of course) is that you can *always* be there in spirit...

Tim Blaes: With regard to the Luke and Leia "twin" conundrum (yuch, hopeless): SW is great story. But not necessarily *perfect*. Case in point. However, for those who prefer the term "work around" to the term "outright ignore" when dealing with boo-boos like Lucas' "Luke/Leia twin" thing, well, at least we're dealing with a galaxy where, within the last generation, a war has just been fought (over? about? with?) *clones*. Considering the technology that must be available (in terms of genetic duplication/manipulation), I think we're justified if we decide to toss conventional here-and-now "twin" science (including apparent age gaps and geno/phenotypical discrepancies) out the "A" port and go ahead and suit ourselves. With a teensy bit of imagination we can simply bypass this issue (if we choose) and treat the characters the way we would anyhow...

A Final Provoking Question: Is Chewbacca really male? Produce empirical evidence, keeping in mind, if Chewie *isn't*, what Han's motives could be (in this apparently anti-female, anti-nonhuman biased galaxy) for covering up this interesting bit of biological data...

Catriona Campbell: I like your comments/questions about Leia and her background. So, what's an "Organa?" Let's throw the field wide open. It could be the name of a planetwide franchised daycare center run by droids. All "graduates" use the creche name tacked on at the end of individual monickers, like a breeder's kennel ID. Maybe "Organa" is just a polite Alderaanian convention for "orphan." What about multiple branches of the same family, some "aristocratic" and some less so. Leia often seems to behave like an only child, but I'm intrigued by the thought of her learning her feisty, winning ways by constant interactions with a large and contentious clan. Have you put your speculations into story form? (I ought to know, but I've been away from SW fanfic for a while.) If so, where? Wheedle, wheedle!

The membership in general: Okay, you've read *Courtship of Princess Leia*. Now let's have comments. Spit 'em out! (And don't forget to say "excuse me" when you're through...)

Whoops, once again this has gone on and gone on. As ever, best wishes to one and all, till next time.

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June 4, 1994

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who voted for "Where is Thy Sting?". You can't know how very much winning the STAR aWARDs meant and means to me. I felt and still feel like Sally Field at the Oscars.

I wish every reader could see these gorgeous medals and certificates and know how extraordinary it feels to win one. Then, perhaps, more would vote. Every SW fanzine reader, writer, publisher, editor and artist should not only vote, but actively recruit everyone they know in tandem to do likewise. Judy puts so much hard work and love into these special awards and they are so truly treasured by those fortunate enough to win that it should be the solemn duty of all of us to support them. Apathy may be the sad norm of the mundane masses, but I hope fans are better than that. Let's prove it next year by at least doubling the amount of votes Judy received this year.

Now I'll get off my soapbox and on to the contents of SE, but thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Cheree, I want to tell you how grateful I am for the June 30th deadline for SE this time. I appreciate the additional time to recover from MWC. The convention is fabulous (though there's *never* enough time to visit thoroughly with everyone), but it does drain one's resources -- physically, financially, and mentally. The additional time to reply will, hopefully, allow me to compose at least a semi-coherent response.

Z. P. Florian: Loved seeing you again and look forward to next year. Like you, I also find it incredible that so many fans -- SW and others, I'm sure -- take almost malicious delight in slamming the doors of opinion on others who don't see matters as they do. I've come to expect this sort of narrow-mindedness in the "real" world, being the semi-cynic that I am, but I'd hoped fandom could rise above such pettiness. Fortunately, I have found that such bigotry is fairly limited. Let's hope it stays that way with the increased expansion of the SW universe due to the new books, comics, etc. As we discussed at MWC, most fans will tolerate anything but intolerance. Too bad the rest of the world isn't the same.

Mary Jo Fox: *Who* says Han "has to be a sexually-molested, alcoholic, schizophrenic, crazed, immoral, unreformable crook"? Personally, I've never read any stories that paint so twisted and ugly a portrait of him as you describe. I have read multiple variations

regarding his past, but these usually end by making his character more, not less, heroic for having risen above his sordid origins. While the SW films may not be about confronting social issues, etc., that's one of the facets of fanfic I find so appealing. Authors are free to explore and question. So long as the innate characteristics of the film role are kept recognizably intact, I find such stories greatly satisfying, both to read and write.

Brian Harris: (And all others who commented on my remark about the L/L chat on Endor) I agree 100% that this conversation is essential to the film. My chief discomfort (dislike is too strong a word) is that the dialogue seemed stilted and more awkward than necessary. No argument that the moment is a difficult one for both characters, but I still feel more care could have been given to the words used. Likewise, the lighting could have been better, still capable of creating a mood of solemn and twi-lit atmosphere, but not so unflattering to the actors. I realize this is just my opinion, however, and appreciate the views of others. Thanks for sharing.

Nora Mayers: Hello again. Right on! I welcome diverse opinions, slants, ideas, etc. on all aspects of the saga -- providing the other participant(s) in the discussion allow me the same courtesy. Raised voices, shaking heads, moans and rolling eyes do nothing to contribute to an equitable exchange of views.

Yvette Ghilan: I must strongly agree with Cheree's comment to you re droids with "souls". I know I'm not ready for such an evolution, but I *would* welcome a carpet sweeping, floor mopping, window washing, even meal preparing robot into my life at science's earliest convenience.

As for why "everyone" knocks the Ewoks, for myself I have nothing really against them except that I wish we'd seen a lot less of them and a lot more of Han, Luke, Leia and Vader. Had the film been able to increase these four's screen time and still kept all the Ewok scenes, I probably would find no fault at all with the cute little fuzzies.

A. G. Steyn: Okay, if you take Owen's title of "Uncle" literally, your argument is perfectly valid. However, I choose not to. I believe Obi-Wan felt that he'd been compelled to take the role -- albeit an absent one -- of surrogate father to the infant Luke. The novelization tells us Owen and Ben are brothers. Hence, Owen becomes "uncle" without blood relations. Many people I know grew up calling close family friends of their parents "aunt" or "uncle" when there was no physical relationship. I guess only Father George knows for sure. Perhaps a prequel will finally settle this topic.

Debbie Kittle: I've dropped off my film and if *those* pictures turn out, I'll be sure to send copies to you and

Judy. No blackmail, I promise!

I would like to ask you, and anyone else who cares to comment, about what you heard Lucas say on E. T. If the new movies take place 40 years prior to ANH, how old does this make Anakin? I've never gotten a firm handle on how old Vader is supposed to be in any of the films, but 40 years earlier seems a bit of a stretch for me. I've always imagined Anakin as being fairly young, say early twenties, at the time of his turning to the Dark Side. Since I also tend to believe he fathered the twins prior to his seduction by the Emperor (though in *my* galaxy they weren't born yet and in fact he was unaware of their conception), he would be a young man. *sigh* I have a strong feeling any new movies are going to disrupt, if not completely destroy, a lot of my preconceptions.

I do agree with you that the "Alliance would keep Luke's parentage closely guarded". For that matter, I doubt many would be privileged to the knowledge in the first place. I feel Luke and Leia would both choose to keep their heritage between themselves and a select few, for reasons such as you cited, but also because it's no one's business and a private matter.

Kevin Anderson's book *Jedi Search* left me completely aghast, so I can't say I'm thrilled with the knowledge that he's so involved with other SW projects. I thought the book was terrible. Come on, Cheree, if a fanfic writer submitted a non-comic story to you using a "frog like" creature of the species "Rybet" wouldn't you groan aloud and promptly suggest they come up with something more original? P-L-E-A-S-E! I'll keep the rest of my complaints to myself for now, but let me say that while I found the book horrid, I recognize the right of others to adore it.

Tim Blaes: I remember the film *Explorers* because my sons loved it. As for dying on a pavement from a drug overdose not being the death River Phoenix deserved, excuse me, but does anyone deserve such an end? Short of the Emperor, I mean.

Jennifer Moore: Great to see you again! Wish we could've visited more.

Again with the Ewoks. To answer Cheree via your letter, I do remember the live-action Ewok TV movies aimed at children. I accepted them as pre-ROTJ and felt they were good for the audience they were intended for. Otherwise, see my reply to Yvette.

Veronica Wilson: Congrats on you STAR aWARDs win for "Unlikely Allies" and thank you again for a MWC birthday surprise I'll never forget. It was wonderful!

As usual, we agree that most fanfic writers do not deliberately use themselves in their stories -- elements yes, but full personalities, doubtful. I believe, as you do,

that authors draw on aspects of their own pasts, ideas, etc. in order to write, but restrain themselves from trying to create mirror-characters. Frankly, that's something I'm grateful for. Writing allows me to explore parts of myself I might otherwise choose to ignore. And no, I'll rarely admit which parts are me and which pure fiction.

I love the intriguing, humorous mental image I got after reading your speculation on a group therapy session for all one fav. characters. Who would you recommend as therapist? Not Freud, please. ((Ed: *How about Bob Newhart?*))

And lastly, I'm afraid we really do know one another too well to ever end up in a "juicy debate" in SE or elsewhere. We're just too like-minded.

Cheryl Pryor: I love it! "Push you must." You made me smile, but I'll probably stick to my personal preference of Alderaan as the twins' birthplace until new movies prove me wrong. Dagobah doesn't strike me as a particularly healthy or sanitary environ for labor and birth, unless you're a snake.

I will disagree with you as to Luke and Leia readily revealing their parentage, as I told Debbie. Nor do I see either of them having a particular "abhorrence for family secrets" because of their experience. Each situation that leads to such secrets is unique, after all. Doesn't nearly everyone have a closet relative somewhere in their ancestry? I certainly have more than my share!

Catriona Campbell: Are you still out there?

You sure raised a lot of interesting questions to Brian. I hope others respond because I'll be curious to see the various views. I'll go first then. IMO, Leia *is* an only child and a foster one at that since the Organas could not have their own in my galaxy. Yes, her personality is a partial result of having been the only royal darling, but there were definitely other contributing factors as well. As to the Organas role on and off Alderaan, I'll reserve my lengthy opinion for another time. Otherwise, my already long letter will never make the SE guidelines. (So many things to comment on this issue!)

Barbara Anderson: While I enjoyed reading your list of all the SW merchandise available or in the offing and while I must budget my fannish spending the same as others, I was saddened by how little is available in my area. *sob* Even if I couldn't afford it, I'd like the option of at least seeing what's out there. Sometimes I hate where I live.

Michelle Malkin: I couldn't agree with you more that most SW writers welcome, hunger for, crave after, etc., comments on their efforts. Sorry you had such a bad experience however. Jealousy is such an ugly creature.

Louise Turner: Your observations that Han and Lando's appointments as generals was probably a case of

"who you know, rather than your track record in the SW universe" struck me as odd. Not because it isn't true, but because you limited such occurrences to the SW arena. Real life, in my experience, has almost always worked exactly the same way, more's the pity.

I shared your queasiness over the cow in *Jurassic Park*, but felt even worse for the poor goat! Had you forgotten that pathetic creature?

Catherine Churko: Hope your dad is doing well and that he continues to do so. Having been through cancer with my own, I empathize completely.

Tina Bentrup: Your "Mrs. Ackbar" costume at MWC was terrific. Such creative people we have in SW fandom.

I have one of those Vader lights you described! It was a gift to my sons years ago that I promptly confiscated as soon as they outgrew needing a night-light. Only mine isn't gray ceramic, but lustrous, raven black. I've willed it to Veronica, of course. Who else?

Wish I could comment further to everyone, but poor Cheree will doubtlessly have a monster issue as it is without my going on. In closing, then, let me just add that whether writers/readers choose to accept only the films as canon or opt to include *every* source available, I for one will welcome any story that has an interesting plot and is well written. Though I may never use Mara Jade and company, I will likewise never avoid a good fan story just because it uses non-film elements. It's a broad galaxy, folks. Let's strive to be equally broad-minded, please.

Peace and happy summer.

PLENTY OF LIFE LEFT

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What can I say about Media that everyone hasn't said/will say? It was a great con, it was great to see everyone I knew, and some people I hadn't met until then (hi, Nora!). Judging from the lively discussion at the panels and the number of new SW zines out this year, there is plenty of life left in those bones yet!

One thing I wanted to mention is how much really *good* SW fiction came out this year ... I haven't finished all my zines yet (oh, my aching budget), but already I've read more good stories than I usually see in several years running. My top-rated stories thus far:

"Mirrors" by Wanda Lybarger ... What can I say? It has great romance (always an important criteria in my lexicon), thoughtful characterization, an original plot

premise, and even raises some extremely interesting philosophical questions on the nature of individuality. (And it even has Rieekan ... not that anyone but myself and someone with the initials JT cares...)

Doesn't seem fair to me that Wanda should be both a great writer and a great artist. If she wasn't such a nice person and a good friend, I'd have to blast her into the next life. As it is, I suppose I'll let her live.

Next choice: "The Pursuit of the Nashtah" by Nora Mayers. Good stuff... Nora has a firm grip on the "and then it gets worse" school of plotting and it had me glued to the page. Two concepts set this apart from other post-ROTJ fanfic (and pro fic) ... the attitude of the New Republic government toward Luke, combined with the general problems of setting up a new, democratic government (a few fanficers have addressed this, but it's fairly rare) and the Real Agenda of Yoda and Obi-Wan re Luke and Leia. I don't want to spoil the novel for anyone by revealing the latter, but ... wow ... I loved it! It's one of those ideas I wish to Force I'd thought of myself. (No Rieekan in the novel, but you can't have everything.)

Third choice: "The Renegade and the Rogue" by Martha Wells. Everything about these stories is first-rate: plotting, characterization of both established and original characters, a very adept, witty prose style. But my top marks go to Martha's characterization of that most tortured (by writers) of canonical characters: Leia Organa. Martha's Leia is a mature adult, wise and pragmatic, with a wry sense of humor, a definite talent in her chosen field ... Han admires her as well as (presumably ... we don't see him come out and say it) loving her. Han is indisputably the main character in "Rogue," but I recommend reading it for her Leia. (Rieekan's in it, too ... just thought I'd mention that.)

Frankly, it's rare to have even one story a year that I'm really enthusiastic about ... so far, I have three and I haven't nearly finished reading my zines yet. Looks like '94 will go down as a vintage fanfic year.

I'm not at all as enthusiastic about the pro fiction out there. Fortunately, I just kept myself from opening my mouth on the subject on the Fidonet SW echo (discussion), when I found out that Kevin Anderson was lurking there ... but now I can at last say what I really think about *Jedi Search*.

Well, I do think it's better than the Zahn books, I will say that. It moves better and (on the whole ... exceptions to be noted), the characterization is somewhat better. I liked Anderson's Lando ... I think he has some of the spark of TESB's Lando. I wasn't terribly offended by the Han characterization.

However.

Luke is Too Grim For Words. A Jedi craves not a

sense of humor? I mean, really ... even in ROTJ, Luke wisecracked with Han, a little. Reading JS, I began to wonder if the Jedi were destroyed because folks were sick of their Grimmer Than Thou faces. You know, I think the writers could go to Liz Sharpe (her Luke "Command Performance") for lessons on how to have Luke crack a smile, not to mention a joke.

Next criticism: Luke tells the Senate the New Republic can't survive without Jedi and *they believe him*. Legislative bodies don't swallow *tax cuts* (always popular with constituents) as fast they slurp up Luke's claims about the Jedi. They don't ask for details, they don't ask for guarantees, they don't even ask for a oversight committee!

Leia dispatches Luke and Lando to rescue Han: Excuse me, is this the same woman who took a leave of absence from the Alliance *in the middle of a war* to rescue Han (in ROTJ)? Funny, I don't recognize her ... I think perhaps she's had a personality change. Because now she can't seem to absent herself from her less-than-galaxy-shaking diplomatic chores to assure herself that her husband, her lover, the father of her children isn't in Durance Vile. Kevin Anderson here is reviving the Too Dedicated For Words (or a love life) Leia and I'm not buying it.

But then the characterization of Leia on the whole got on my nerves ... that constant agonizing over career-vs.-children made her sound more like a '90s career woman than the person we saw in the films. It's a valid conflict, true, but it was way overdone.

Speaking of parenting: Han and Leia are really, really incredibly bad parents. Anyone who knows me realizes that I'm not really that into children and maternal instincts and all that jazz, but I find it absolutely outrageous that the Jedi should tell Han and Leia to exile their children during their most formative years ... the years they most need their parents' presence and support to help mold them into the kind of people they're destined to be. I find it outrageous that Han and Leia should actually obey this edict. I just plain find it outrageous. I really can't imagine either of them putting up with this.

But what I disliked most about the characterization of Han is letting Kyp (obviously bound for the dark side, that Jedi) pilot them through that scary, sticky bit. Someone on the Fidonet SW echo objected to Han being portrayed as a Jedi in fanfic, because being a Jedi is Luke "shtick" and Han shouldn't horn in. Well, same thing here ... piloting a spaceship's Han shtick and the author shouldn't have the young Jedi muscling in. Let characters do what they do best as individuals.

Incidentally, re Jacqueline's question in her letter (probably somewhere above) about why Luke says the

Jedi are "vital" to the New Republic. I posted this question to Kevin Anderson on Fidonet, making it clear that "a lot of us" having been kicking around issues like these since TESB and ROTJ premiered. His reply was that "my friend must not have thought about this much," which I thought was kind of humorous, actually, as well as being slightly condescending. Hopefully, fans will be able to debate this in a more interesting manner than KA.

Well, I've already carried on at length about fan- and pro-fic, so I'll try to keep the rest short.

Nora: Oh, novelist extraordinaire... I have to disagree! (Sorry, couldn't resist.) The Church of Ford debates weren't friendly, so they don't fall into the category you're talking about. Trust me, it was a dark time for SW fandom, when people tried to shove their opinions down other people's throats. I temporarily ducked out of the kitchen myself, because I certainly couldn't take the heat.

But I certainly agree your comment a few issues ago about signing up for online services if you have a computer and modem. I've been on Fidonet for several months and recently signed up for GENie (where I was astonished to find half the membership of MediaWest hanging about). It's all sort of like a continuing convention by modem. Only trouble is, it certainly eats into the writing time (or any other time). I read that author Lois Bujold called GENie "a time sink" and I can certainly testify to the truth of that!

Yvette: Is Han Solo bigoted against droids in general or C3PO in particular? Personally, I think it's the latter and I don't blame him one bit!

And I still think there are certainly some interesting implications if there *is* truly no paper in the SW universe. Computer nets are eminently controllable by the Empire, which may make it very hard for the Alliance to get across its message to the populace at large.

Liz: I like "IMGA." I'll have to remember that. "IMGA, bozo," she snarled.

Good analysis of Zahn ... just what I thought, but didn't know how to express it. (You, on the other hand, never have trouble expressing yourself beautifully.)

Tim: It's my impression that the "Supreme Intellect" business started in a interview with Richard Marquand, possibly in *Premiere* magazine, but I'm not entirely certain.

Jennifer: I absolutely agree with you re *Deep Space Nine*, but then I'm a DS9 fan and a Kira fan (she might be related to Leia, what do you think?), so perhaps I'm prejudiced here.

Maggie: You had several ideas in your last letter that I absolutely adored! The idea about Mon Mothma being assassinated sounds like a story waiting to happen ... I think it might be more interesting if she were

assassinated by one of Ours. And I also definitely liked the thought that Palpatine gathered the first galactic fleet ... that makes a whole lot of sense to me. There's no saying that the Old Republic was a strong galactic system ... perhaps that's what planetary leaders like Bail Organa liked about it, that there were "world's rights," sort of like the states' rights issue during the Civil War.

Cheryl: I think that it's very likely that Luke and Leia were, if not born, certainly kept on Dagobah for a year or two after their births (maybe that's where the *Jedi Search* idea came from). I definitely think Luke's line about Dagobah being familiar was significant.

Catriona: Perhaps Alderaan was ruled by an amalgamation of minor royalties ... there's mention of a World Family, is there not? I've always kind of imagined (for my own purposes in story-writing, anyway) a kind of minor aristocracy who were expected to run for office/participate in government. Sort of like the Virginia aristocracy/plantation owners in the 18th century ... the working folk just sort expected them to run for office, it was their duty in life. That's just one possibility, of course.

Louise: Maybe we should start our own organization for The Propagation and Protection of Minor SW Characters. Wedge would obviously count in that category, and Rieekan, and maybe Maggie would like us to be thrown in Mon Mothma, hmmm?

Yes, definitely a C.J. Cherryh fan ... however, did you guess. As for the SW similarities, well we do know that Cherryh likes the saga. I mean, "The Kif Strike Back" is kind of obvious, isn't it? And one of the limited-edition hardcovers of her books (it might have been "Kif") featured a cover painting by her brother, David Cherry, that was basically Mark Hamill in Luke's wraptunic from ANH as Tully.

Well, that'll do it (Cheree's saying, that'll *more* than do it) for this time.

JAMS VS. CMLS

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August 4, 1994

Hiall! I imagine there'll be all sorts of MediaWest Con 14 pictures in this issue for those of us who didn't go to look at with cross-eyed envy. Guess it's time to butch up and simply say congratulations to all the FanQ and STAR aWARDs winners among us!

Z.P.: Those editors who protest fanlit use of profanity need to explain just whose definition of profanity they

are using. Both *damn* and *hell*, used in a cursing manner, are heard in the American sound-track. Does that mean we're limited to those two words when a character is pissed? And what about that last word, *pissed*? Is it merely vulgar or profane? Are SFy versions of local swearing -- godsbedamned, for example, instead of goddamned -- allowed? Is it to be restricted according to character? Since Han swears in the movies, I'm assuming he can swear as a story character, but can Luke? Can Leia?

Tammy: On droid honesty, I have a suspicion that prejudice on the part of sentient beings would invade any assessments of the situation. We know C3PO can lie; we've heard him do it. But the characters seem to act as if droids are nothing but GIGO [garbage in/garbage out] machines in that area. Are we witnessing one of those cute paradoxes of everyday living here? Deep denial? Wishful thinking?

Mary Jo: While I would agree that Lucas wanted an antedote to 70's style cynicism, I would argue that he also created characters that are not heroes -- if the definition of hero is someone who is totally admirable/perfect/someone to emulate in all ways. The SW characters are all complex people, as you noted, who rise to heroic demands, but they seem to me to be, in many ways, very ordinary people. I've always felt that Lucas' message was that all of us, also very ordinary people, can rise to the occasion; we don't have to be saints, we don't have to have spotless histories, and we don't have to always be heroic hereafter.

Lucas gave Leia a temper; he introduced a man of questionable occupation in Han Solo; he gave us a wise old man with a past that might be painful to reflect upon; his Jedi-to-be does not appear to be gifted in, or, perhaps interested in, lots of socialization; and, if we accept Chewie as a family man, we have a Wookiee who is not an on-site father.

The challenge of myth must be for everyone if it is to endure and I think Lucas understood that when he created all these flawed people. We look at them and know damn well we can do what they've done because we're just like them, with tempers, and regrets, and reluctance and a list of "wishes we were better."

Perhaps a "generational" thing is going on here. From the PoV of the 90s, SW is incredibly idealistic (from the PoV of those in the 70s who anticipated the 90s it was incredibly naive). However, to many of us in the 70s, it was quite a groundbreaker in realism for that kind of movie. It was incredible to encounter a hero, not merely a protagonist, who shot people under the table; Adam Cartwright would never do that!

(In fact, the other night I saw the scene that Han's action had reminded me of: Bad guy threatening good

guy, Adam shoots from under the table, his hand by his holster on his hip, just like Han's, but he shoots a mug a beer to startle the bad guy and enable the good guy to survive.)

Also, Princesses did not pick up blasters and actually hit someone in those days. I cheered when Lucas had Leia pick up the weapon, but when he actually let her hit a Trooper, I was stunned (and ecstatic).

So, maybe some fans look at the movie a bit more darkly than others because of they're coming at it from a different direction.

Brian: Hey, the female sex need male discussion of women and female characters just as the male sex needs the same of them and theirs. We're all too close to ourselves as sexual beings to be able to see ourselves clearly, especially in a culture that pays more attention to the 4% sexual differences among us than the 96% human similarities. Comment away!

Marti S.: For a fascinating discussion of the history of twins in human storytelling/mythologies, check out the Summer issue of the magazine, *Parabola* (should be available in full-service newsstands). Anyone who wonders why Lucas chose to make L&L twins would be well served by reading this issue as well, since it discusses a myriad of reasons for the appearance of twins in so many world myths ... and also touches on why our culture has tended to "hide" the twinship of many characters in a discussion of "competative" twins and "cooperative" twins. Great story source material here, writers!

Debbie: Would love to see the SW chess set, although I have to admit to being uneasy with the continuing trend of universe-oriented chess sets to make one color the "good" guys and the other color the "bad" guys. One important point in chess is that *both* sides are at war and equally armed; one or the other is neither good nor bad, light nor dark. As a child, I always chose the black pieces because the white looked so wimpy; I don't like seeing the black/dark pieces always presented as the "other" guys (this isn't so much a problem with gold and silver colorings, but the g/s dichotomy isn't that common either).

A clarification of Cheree's explanation of Enclaves -- In 1977, our local group started calling ourselves The First Terran Enclave after the ThousandWorlds Jedi Enclave and for a while fantasized about a whole network of Terran Enclaves of fans. Lasted about 1 year, such organization of that idea, although we still called ourselves that for fannish and SW Library purposes. Jenni Hennig, I think, picked it up from that first frantic year and Cheree's story follows from that.

Liz: Another exquisite paragraph summing up the CoF/CoL nonsense. Congratulations, especially for your

apt way of presenting the progression of terms. Folks, Liz said it right and in the right order.

As for Luke in the swamp, of course a desert boy would feel like Mr. Yuk in the mire. Gad, he left Tatooine for a jungle, then transferred to an arctic waste, then got dumped in a swamp. Anyone taking bets on what levels of temperature and humidity he'll keep in a dwelling *he* can control? He got cocky on Tatooine and why not? He was home and knew all the bugs' names and all the places *not* to step!

Tim: Just as added trivia, in many cultures, the getting of knowledge was not as the result of "stealing" it from a god (or, disobeying, à la Eve and the Tree of Knowledge), but as the result of a gift from a god, or after a demonstration of skill.

Back to SW: The Supreme Intellect started in an article that ran in *Jundland Wastes*. I can't remember if it was sarcastic back then, or if the sarcasm developed out of an idea taken too seriously. Liz? Pat? I don't have my JWs on hand just now, so I can't look it up.

Jennifer: Asia is a good source for politics also because the Celestial Kingdom has lasted so long with so many different variations on its government. There are those who even suggest that future historians will simply consider Mao to be another Emperor, albeit with a decidedly different take on ideology. The return of capitalism may simply begin a return to the old Empire of the Sun -- with faxes and calligraphy. Here's a pattern: Republic -- Empire (later to be seen as stern aberration within Republican history -- Republic once again.

Well, that's it for the LoC responses; here come some editorializing. Warning! Warning! Some cranky opinions ahead!

As part of the continuing discussion of fanlit ... I read a review of a Sherlock Holmes/Phantom of the Opera pro book written by Nicholas Meyer which had some applicable comments for all fanlit (which the Meyer book certainly is but *he* gets paid for it). The reviewer noticed a few aspects that have plagued us all over the years:

"[Meyer's] pastiche is sufficiently light-hearted so that it's probably pointless to hold him to some kind of lofty standard, especially when even the beloved originals were written to be nothing more than pop literature.

"Still, Arthur Conan Doyle was an honest craftsman; he never wrote throwaways, never compromised his characters, and always managed to summon a surprise for his third act. He gave good weight, and, truth to tell, Nicholas Meyer doesn't."

For me, that last paragraph also defined the difference between an bully fan story and a sloppy one, particularly the bit about compromising characters. We all do it at sometime, give in to the temptation to have a character

do Action X when, deep down, we suspect (or damn well know) that it would never occur to this particular character to act that way. We do it because we think Action X is a giggle, or it turns us on, or we want to Say Something about Action X, or we need to work out something in ourselves regarding Action X and want to see a beloved character in the same situation we're in, or any number of reasons why. But it isn't quite honest, is it?

Anyone want to discuss fan lit as therapy fiction?

And speaking of psychobabble, reading over SE 38, it struck me that we're dividing into camps again. Superficially, it looks like "SW as a Moral Universe -- My Morals" vs. "SW as Free Speech Center", but I think it's more basic than that. I'd like to suggest the possibility that all the various dualities of SW fannish arguments (Who's the hero, Han or Luke?, Fanlit is just fun; fanlit is a craft) are mere symptoms of a more fundamental difference among fans.

We've all heard the phrase, "It's just a movie," usually followed by "Lighten up already." This often comes after someone has just ranted about "what some people are doing to my STAR WARS!" This exchange is what I would like to offer as the basic difference among fans: SW as "just a movie" vs. SW as "something that deeply touched my life".

Before I go further, let me say that I think both sides are right. It *is* just a movie. And it *does* deeply touch many people. Most people will say both attitudes describe them.

How much a person falls on one side or the other, though, seems to come out most strongly when the secondary arguments get heated, as they are doing these days, by the letters showing up in SE recently.

Here's my take on the two sides; I'd love to read other people's comments on the issue.

Just A Movie (JAMs) folks seem more inclined to have Lots of Fun with the SW universe. They're willing to try any circumstance, any history -- future or past, any game that can be played with the SW politics, people, and technologies. SW is a giant toybox and JAMs love to play, whether the rules cover deep relationships or psychological deep diving or Real Life scenarios or giddily silly and improbable farces. George made it; they bought it; and if they want to throw it in the blender to see what comes out, what's it to you?

Changed My Life (CMLs) folks seem more inclined to see the SW universe as representing Something Very Real/Special. They're interested in parsing either the universe as a whole, or a specific character, or a relationship among characters -- whichever aspect has touched them so into which CMLs love to dive, hunting its parameters with great seriousness, whether those

parameters are of Good & Evil, Good Guys & Bad Guys, or Is She or Isn't She? As George made it, warts and all, is how it affected them (and still does) -- and show some respect, huh?

The danger for JAMs lies in twisting their universe so many times that no one not in on the theory/joke can recognize it as SW, thereby limiting their ability to acquire new blood.

The danger for CMLs lies in becoming so dogmatic and blinded by their particular take on SW that they don't recognize different opinions and sometimes destroy the fragile commonality that holds fandom together.

(In case anyone has to ask, I'm a standard dose of CML with -- I hope -- the ability to be light-hearted and not too terribly religious about it in public. I'm willing to listen to dissenting opinions, though!)

Here's wishing a fast slide into autumn for everyone!

NEW SW PRODUCTS

Debbie Kittle
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June 15, 1994

Hello to all. It's hard to believe it's June already and only 2 more weeks to the deadline. Time flew by this year. MW was a great con. Got to meet a few new people and the doll display went up quite well. Hope everyone got a chance to see it. Had a great time.

Congrats to all the Star Awards winners and the Fan Q winners as well.

Some new SW merchandise: I'm upset that Barbara got Han before I did. You must have connections. Anyway, cardboard stand ups are out: the droids, trooper, Luke, Leia and Han. They are really great looking. Also Suncoast has the scripts from the movie with some great color and B/W pics from the movies in the back. New sets of pins are coming out, over 50. Some were being sold at MW but most can be found in LFL and at ST cons in your area.

Steve Sansweet was on QVC last month. Good show. I got my *Falcon* watch from them and it is gorgeous.

Well, we've had 3 books released since the last SE: *Jedi Search*, *The Courtship of Princess Leia*, and *Dark Apprentice*. I enjoyed all 3 of them. Talk about a cliffhanger at the end of DA!

Thanks to Ann Goetz for her article on SW Blaster/ Role Play at MW. It certainly helped to explain things for me. Maybe one year I'll go for it.

Brian: Re: writing to music -- I normally listen to

country but channel surfing is one of my hobbies and happened to turn on MTV. There was a video by Shakespear's Sister called "Stay". It inspired me to write a story that came out this year. The video was so visual and powerful that the story practically wrote itself.

I won't hate you because you don't like snow. :-) I'm in the definite minority here.

A.G.: Howdy! Now that I have my own life-size (!) Han, I'm disgustingly satisfied every night and every morning. Try him!!

Marti: Good to see you again at MW and getting to chat a little. What a great time we had with the "gang"!

Re: my winter, the temps were quite nice and low. We really didn't get much snow but I truly enjoyed what I did get. Now, as for the ice -- I never asked those pesky Hoth elves for ice. I hate freezing rain/sleet with a passion. Most everyone probably saw on the newscast the scene where the EMS guy fell and slid on the ice and finally stopped only after he slid into the ambulance. That is a scary feeling because I experienced it, too. I was trying to clean off my car (after having to walk slow and carefully) and slid down the street almost past my car. I was standing, too!! I grabbed the bumper and was able to stop myself. I retraced my steps carefully and went back inside until it warmed up.

Those few months were quite an experience, one I hope never to repeat. I will just have to work harder on those elves to give me (and anyone who wants one) a cold and snow white winter. It's only 5 months away!!

Somehow, we've skipped spring and launched right into summer. This week temps will be near 100°!!! and it's not officially summer!

About that ROTJ Trilogy plate, I was perturbed that Han and Vader were missing. To me, it's not complete at all. I did get it, though, as I had the other 2 but it is my least favorite. I hear Hamilton will be releasing another set of 3 plates. I hope they do a better job.

Jacqueline: You couldn't keep ex-Imps out of the post-Rebel government. It'd be impossible unless they practiced ethnic/political cleansing but that would make them no better than the side they had defeated.

Tim: How did Vader find out about Luke? Why, good old-fashioned kidnapping of Rebel operatives followed by torture/interrogation and neck-breaking.

Veronica: Nice to see you at MW. Liked the way you expressed yourself re: our choices over stories. Also liked your response about Leia's reaction to Han.

Barbara: Sorry your winter was lousy for you. For the most part, it was great and I enjoyed it. When (not if, mind you) I come up with a way to package up all the snow that falls in unwanted places, I'll send it out to everyone so they can send it all to me! I want it all!

I can't believe you got Han so soon. I got mine in

mid-April and yes, he is gorgeous. He has a place of honor in my room.

I like Advanced Comics very much. Especially enjoyed their SW catalog with Han and Chewie on the cover. Well done art. Of course, I just saw that it will be a card from the new second series.

Mickey: Enjoyed winter? You bet!! 52 below zero?! I really do live in the wrong part of the country. I'm going north to Alaska. My winter home will be an igloo (the first in the state). There winter is not wimpy and they have *tons* of snow.

Actually the *Dark Empire* comics edition you have is the UK edition with DE/IJ combo. They only did 10. DE stopped at 6 then started with classic (reprints) newspaper strips that will stop at #20. That just came out this week. In August, they will restart back up with the Russ Manning strip.

Louise: Have you read any of the other SW books AZ (after Zahn)? Wedge is made a General in JS and in DA, he even gets a girl.

Re: dogs at the hospital and Chewie, I never meant to demean Chewie at all. In fact, that is the farthest thing from my mind. I guess you could term that a non sequitur. I mean, you 2 came up with that "revelation" and the first thing that came into my mind was the stuff about the dogs and I couldn't stop laughing. Part of it is, that I usually end up reading SE at 1 or 2 in the morning just having gotten off work a few hours prior and that's the direction it took.

However, that was an interesting observation, one I never took notice of before and I've watched it several hundred times. But then, after all those times, I still learn new things, especially after seeing it on the big screen, all in one sitting.

Tina: Glad you love winter, too but indoorsy? Not me! I gotta be out at all hours of the day and night, taking snow measurements, getting those natural Hoth doll scenes and just getting my body temperature normal. I'll be in hibernation until November.

I saw *Gorky Park* but it was ages ago. I'll have to check it out again sometime.

Carolyn: Glad you could make it to MW this year. We had a blast. Hope you enjoyed the dedication.

You had some really great drawings. Continued success with them.

Now onto my fellow DEAD BOTHANS at the Dead Bothan Society--

Liz: Great IJ party! Had a blast. Some nice pointers you gave us for writing.

Jennifer: Thanks for the cold winter wishes.

Good points on SW and DS 9.

Also agree about *Truce*. I thought it was well done but there wasn't enough Han in there for me.

Jeannie: Nice to see you at the IJ party.

Nora: Howdy! Good to see you at the IJ party. Great costume at MW. I look forward to reading your story. I'll be sending you those pics we took in the hallway as soon as they are developed if the poor film developer person doesn't drop over!

Sorry you didn't like *Courtship*. Did you like DA?

Cheryl: (Hi, Lin!). "Whacking Womp Rats" doesn't look like "Sith Secrets Laid Bare". The check got lost in the mail? Of course, it was foreshadowing by Cheree since you were unable to make it to MW.

Have you heard, Space Ghost is now a talk show host! I couldn't believe it!

So, I hear the coded message got chopped. Hopefully next time. How's this: Headhunting with GUB and a Greenie. Looking for a slimebottom who's been greasing the servos. Might be an interesting Skywalker Surprise. Anyway, hope by the time this sees print, CB is in your arms with UCT extended.

Some last minute additions: I am now the proud owner of a Han Solo bendie!! Yes, they do exist. As I write this, I only have one and am looking for others for my friends. The outfit is good though his pants have the yellow strip and not the red one even though the outfit is from the first movie. The face isn't even close. Oh well.

I got the next installment from the Danbury Mint finally. Six months after the first shipment and still no chessboard. It's a trooper pawn and the Darkside King-Vader. They both look great. Vader has his red saber extended.

Last thing: This week I got to play with 2 wolf cubs! They are being socialized to people as they will be on exhibit for the rest of their lives here in Maryland at a research center. They are adorable! Having been fascinated by wolves from an early age, this is a dream come true.

Til next ish, Fly Casually In The Force! And remember, the only good Bothan is a dead (frisky) Bothan.



Milinery

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Pat Grant: I never said Ms. Organa was Little Miss Perfect. Yes, ST was a step in the right direction and, sure, it would've been nice to see more strong women in the SW movies. But for a genre notorious for keeping women around only to be rescued and be the hero's girlfriend, what SW did with its heroine was pretty unique, and made quite an impression on me as a seven-year-old. For once, the heroine was not a six-foot-tall ex-Miss America bimbo whose only talents were screaming and looking nice in a bikini. Leia was someone I liked, someone to whom I could relate.

Jennifer: DS9 does remind me quite a bit of SW, from Kira's character, to the dingy look of the space station, to the bar where lots of weird aliens hang out. The characters argue among themselves often, unlike the strained civility the ST:TNG crew displays toward each other.

Tammy: I'm positive the QVC guest stars are well-compensated. I know they'd have to pay *me* to put up with that stupid host for three hours!

Catriona: DM was incredible! They're coming back this summer but I won't go. I've seen them twice already and I'll wait until a new album comes out. Too bad Fletcher won't be onstage with them anymore. *Advance Comics* is my bible. I don't know what I'd do without it. That's cool Kathy Tyers wrote you back. It's always nice to see folks responding to their fans.

Louise: My friend James is working on a Wedge epic that manages to tie in everything from the films to the radio series to the RPG and beyond. You'd get a kick out of it.

Tina: I was just kidding about the Jedi twins' "dubious" heritage! Anyway, Kevin Anderson says they're dead ringers for their Mommy and Daddy. Speaking of Kevin Anderson, I loooooove his books! I would've been more than happy to buy them in hardcover -- I don't know why they're only in paperback. Oh, well, it *does* save me money. In any case, I'm thrilled he'll be doing more SW stuff. I also thoroughly enjoyed *Courtship of Princess Leia*. Even though I don't think Leia agonized enough over choosing her duty over her scoundrel (she sure ran for that Isolder guy pretty quick), the book was loads of fun and very cute, charming. I've heard Luke's gonna get the girl in a future novel. I hope it's true. The poor guy's lonely!

A. G.: Loved the wedding vows! This is something I'm sure you'll enjoy pondering over -- do Corellians have ways to even out the inequities when their wives reach their sexual peak in their 40's, as they're on "the

decline", so to speak? Perhaps it's blasphemous for Han fans to think of such things...

So, have all of you heard the "Redtails-is-a-cover-name-for-SW" rumor yet? Geez, I don't know which are weirder, the rumors about the new movies or rumors about new toys. Does anyone know anything more about the Millennium Falcon, like who's sponsoring it, and if they have permission from Lucasfilm or not? (If not, they're dumb to not put a disclaimer on their flyers.) Pre-reg until July 31 is mighty cheap, though. If only the Force provides me with cheap fare to LA. ((Ed: *I got those flyers, too, and they seemed a bit vague to me. I'd exercise caution and hold off sending any money until more information is forthcoming.*))

Well, that's about it for now. Let's see if this LoC is shorter than Jennifer's.

IT'S JUST A MOVIE

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June, 1994

Hi, everyone! Well, it's been another wild couple of months. I've finally seen my SW fiction in print, and there's been the extra excitement of finishing *The Ormand Factor*. And I'd just like to take this opportunity to say a big "thank you" to Gerald Crotty, who made such a wonderful job of the illustrations. Thanks, Gerald!

I met up with Gail Mihara once more, and we visited Denis Lawson after another stage show. He seemed genuinely pleased to see us, and it was a pleasure chatting with him again. Then, just recently, I was fortunate enough to attend a SW Trilogy in Elstree. The audience was wonderful, the presence of Dave Prowse and Warwick Davis was an interesting bonus, and -- most of all -- it was a chance to catch up with old friends, and to meet new ones, too! Gerald, it was fun to speak with you in person, instead of communicating with a disembodied voice on the phone or a few lines on a piece of paper, and it was a great pleasure to meet Lisa Cowan in London the following morning. Hi, Lisa! As for the films ... I've always known that in many aspects that TESB is the best film of the three, and yet I just cannot watch it on video without getting bored. Does that sound like a contradiction? When I saw it on that big screen again, I understood why it should be viewed with such reverence! What a masterpiece! The small screen just does not do it any justice at all.

And don't blink, for fear of missing an historic occasion! The moon has just turned blue, and pigs are flying over Bridge of Weir. Me, the Arch-Cynic as opposed to recent Things Official, would like to make an announcement. I thoroughly enjoyed *The Truce at Bakura*. Three cheers for Kathy Tyers! Okay, so I could nit-pick about a few things, but, what the hell! The overall impression was great. There's something about the way she writes which is totally absent in Zahn's stuff. Tyers is a fan, and it shows so clearly. There's so much attention to background detail, and reference to things which are implicit in the movies, like anti-droid feelings, and racism against aliens. It's little touches like that which make SW and she's succeeded where West End Games and Zahn have sadly failed. More! More! Unfortunately, though, I didn't like her Wedge... But Luke was written extremely well. And it was so dark! That entechment business gave me the shivers, I can tell you.

It's good to see that people are willing to confess their dissatisfaction with Zahn's material. I'm afraid that I am not one of those people who can say that something is flawless and wonderful just because it is Official. As a fan, I am a consumer and, as a consumer, I feel I have certain rights. We live in a capitalist world, after all, where the market rules supreme. Lucasfilm expects us to part with our hard-earned cash for their products, so I expect value-for-money. If I am not satisfied with what is offered to me, then I will say so. Not that my opinions count for much, but never mind. It makes me feel better.

Z. P. Florian: The storm probably is coming... Batten down the hatches and remember that you are not a lone heroic figure battling the howling gales. There's an entire fleet of determined little yachts bobbing along just behind you...

Which brings me to the point in time where I have a little snit, I'm afraid. From what I've been hearing, there seems to be some quality sadly lacking in certain members of SW fandom. That quality is tolerance. I personally became involved in fandom because I celebrate diversity of opinion, and because I love discussion and debate. And, from the tone of many LoCs, I am not alone in this. But certain elements do seem to be convinced that their views of the Trilogy and fandom are the only legitimate ones, and I feel that such an attitude perverts those very qualities that the SW movies embody. Please forgive me if I've interpreted these movies the wrong way for all these years, but I always thought that the Empire was the side associated with the forced imposition of monolithic ideologies, while the Rebellion championed the cause of diversity and freedom. If people feel that their worldview is the

only one suitable for mass expression, then I suggest they go and enlist with the Imperials. They'll be only too pleased to have you, I'm sure...

Why is it that humanity just can't seem to exist without schisms? It seems like fandom's going to lurch straight from the Luke/Han debate into something which might be termed The Church of Smut vs. The Cathedral of Purity. Come on, guys! Grow up! There's enough problems in the world around us, without extra bickering between those who should surely know better. We are fortunate enough to have access to a huge circle of prospective friends from all over the world, a circle which breaks down social and geographical differences. We're damn lucky, so let's learn to enjoy it! Can we not perhaps start to think a little more positively and learn to respect those who might not share our own particular worldviews? I mean, we're fighting over rolls of celluloid and bits of paper! It might be different if some among us were disembowelling kittens or living secret lives as million-dollar drug barons. Things should perhaps be placed back into some kind of perspective. ((Ed: *Hear, hear! Well said, Louise!*))

Mary Jo (1): Em, Wedge was not exactly "nekkid". Just "nekkid" from the waist down. Actually, to British audiences, Lawson is notorious for removing his clothing on the small screen. I think the SW films are the exceptions where he does not appear without clothes, or in bed! In one thing he was in, there was an outcry because he was supposedly "raped" by a woman, while "nekkid" and handcuffed by his ankle to a bed. The tasteful television campaigners howled out for the series to be banned, and the tabloid press had a field day! Um, well, I must confess that I quite liked it... I was seventeen at the time, and I suffered acute embarrassment, because I went 'round all my friends and said, "Watch *Dead Head!* That wonderful guy that plays Wedge is in it!" They wouldn't let me live it down for ages... Ah, British television. Scenes of sex and nudity are ten-apenny, these days!

Mary Jo (2): Are you familiar with any good fairy tales? In case you hadn't noticed, they tend to be horribly grim(m). I can't agree with your pleas for a sanitized SW Universe. Have you watched TESB recently? Not exactly a bundle of laughs, I'd say. War is not nice, as you admit, and living under a facist dictatorship is not nice either. People tend to be rather nasty to one another. But what SW tells us (and someone may have expressed these sentiments before, and if they have, then I apologize for not acknowledging them) is that, despite fearful setbacks, despite extreme adversity, good can triumph over evil. It just takes one hell of a struggle for it to do so. It also tells us that good can sometimes come out of evil, too. This is why

I am a true fan of the SW universe: despite odds which are stacked against them, people are fighting because they believe they can make their world a better place, and it's only by struggling through darkness that light can really be found. Such dogged belief and determination is the hallmark of true heroism, I believe. And I feel that my own personal heroes are those I can admire here and now, like Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev, Aung San Suu Kyi, and the authoress, whose name I unfortunately cannot remember, who is under a fatwa because of her feminist writings in an Islaamic country.

Now, Mary Jo, my opinions do not match yours, but I hope you will take that reply in the way which I intended it. As an expression of difference, and not a personal attack against you. I respect you as a fan and as a person, and I respect you all the more because, when you made that observation (which was probably aimed at me as much as anyone else), you quite clearly separated your personal comments from your more general statements. True statesmanship! Let's stay friends, huh?

Brian Harris: Hi, there! Thanks for the letter! I haven't seen *Red Dawn*, I'm afraid. Actually, Depeche Mode didn't exactly inspire Vance's character, rather the lyrics immediately made me think, "Yep, that's *him*!"

Catherine Churko: What's "Theoretical Archaeology"? Hey, babe, you just don't want to know... Aw, it's great fun, really. We use all kinds of theoretical means to enrich our understanding of the past, borrowing ideas from anthropology, philosophy, geography, linguistics, you name it.

Pat Grant: Come to Scotland some day. And let me assure you that I'll be at MediaWest just as soon as I can! Maybe Leia could have been a better female role if she'd been created by a woman... And hey, you're a bit hard on science fiction! Science *fiction*, after all, should be just what it says. But, as you so correctly observed, all too often the emphasis is placed on the science (Zahn is guilty of this, as you know). Characters are sacrificed to setting, whereas setting should merely be the backdrop against which characters live out their experiences, and in their ways, Cherryh and SW are equally successful in conveying this. Science fiction where the science plays the leading role is not, IMO, good science fiction, or good fiction, full stop!

Tim Blaes: You try camping out in Stonehenge, buddy, and they'll arrest you! Not even archaeologists have access to it! The unfortunate monument has been cast adrift from the world. Go buy the postcard instead! Persevere with your search for the pilot. She is there, I promise. I saw her again at the Triple Bill -- all I want is to know it took me six years or so to find her! And your suggestion for a Wedge-zine is inspirational. I would like to tentatively suggest that I am interested in

taking it on. I've spoken to some people already, and four stories have been pledged so far. And it will be called *See You at the Rendezvous*. Only problem is -- and this applies to *Bad Feeling* #2 also -- that I may not have access to a decent computer next year. I am trying for a job which will require a long-distance move, and that will mean an enforced separation from my Dad's AppleMac. That would mean that future zine projects would have to go on hold. But believe me, I would love to edit one at some point in time. Watch this space!

To Tim Blaes and Nora Mayers: I haven't circulated info about *Tydirium* because of an awesome technical hitch: the zine is forty pages long, costs £1.75 to produce and £2.50 to airmail to the States! That would make it around \$8.00, which seems an awful lot to pay for forty pages! But if you are interested, then get in touch. Or, alternatively, place your order along with the one for *Ormand Factor* or *Bad Feeling*, and we can organize a special deal. (Ooops, enough of a plug, Louise.)

Maggie Nowakowska: A kindred spirit, re, merchandising. Except, if I may paraphrase your words slightly, my reactions were: "This isn't my SW. Why am I wasting my money like this?" My compulsion has most definitely waned, thank goodness. I used to collect and do like adding to my material from time to time, but I've kicked the addiction that I used to have, and oh, boy, was it an addiction! And may I say how much I've enjoyed the stories that I've read of yours, especially "Conversations" and the two featured in *Imperium* #3.

Veronica Wilson: Keep playing Devil's Advocate! Consensus is sterile, amicable dissent is invigorating! Yes, the archaeology does creep into my fiction sometimes, or rather Giddens-inspired sociology does! Another fascinating comparison with Rome which might be worth considering is the way in which Rome originally changed from a Republic to an Empire. Now I know it, I really want to write about it, though perhaps (I hope) George Lucas will do it first, since he's used the Roman parallel already. Republicans hated absolute power, and created two opposing positions of authority on the Senate with the precise intention of balancing one another, thus preventing a takeover. Augustus manipulated enough Senators to get himself elected to both titles. The transition to Emperor was an easy and an inevitable one after that, and the rest, as they say, is history... You raised interesting questions about class differences and the next question is who are the Rebels? Anne-Virginie Dutech and I decided that the Rebellion was instigated and probably supported by intellectuals and educated persons, because they're probably the ones that have the most to lose when a fascist regime declares itself master of economy, society and ideology. And I

wholeheartedly agree with your observations on writers placing themselves "into" a character. I think tiny facets of oneself are present in every character, because, as you implied, that gives some kind of a reference point.

Barbara Anderson: Commander Noddie? Watch ANH and check out the Imps at the beginning. Commander Noddie is unmistakable...

Well, that's about it, I suppose. Hi to Amanda Palumbo and Carolyn Golledge (hear, hear with respect to your *Truce* observations), and to Marti Schuller, too (congrats to you and Veronica!). Hey, Carolyn, since the "Wedge Antilles Appreciation Campaign" has gone so well (nearly everyone is talking about him, after all!), then perhaps you would care to join me in the "Deck Officer Publicity Campaign". He's the true hero of the Rebellion. Or maybe I've finally flipped... One final note: I at last heard Wedge on the SW radio series. He sounds just like Cat out of *Red Dwarf*! Or even Cat's nerdish alter-ego Dwayne Dibley (if Dwayne is not yet known to you guys, then I apologize for being precocious...).

Rock on to Red Flight!

ENJOYED JEDI SEARCH

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June 8, 1994

SE#38 was a great read, Cheree. I'm so pleased that you're keeping going with SE.

I read *Jedi Search* a couple of months ago and I must say I quite enjoyed it. In fact, it's the first SW spinoff novel I have enjoyed. I never really liked the Brian Daley books, *Splinter of the Mind's Eye* or the Lando novels and I only managed to read one of the Zahn books. But this novel by Kevin Anderson is a really good adventure. "Adventure" -- that's the word some of the other authors don't seem too familiar with. He's captured the essence of all the characters, even 3PO. Most writers don't seem to have a clue how to write 3PO. Han's famous Kessel Run is explained (although I have heard a similar explanation before) and we learn a lot about spice. Anderson has managed to bring Luke back to normality a bit, difficult to do since the story takes place after *Dark Empire*. There's some very intriguing political stuff going on but it's never ponderous. It's got good storytelling. The only bit I didn't like was the blob races episode. The author is

obviously a 3PO fan. One of my favorite ideas is the decision to replace Winter with 3PO as nanny to the kids.

Truce at Bakura: Everyone tells me this is really good. However, I've had it 2 weeks and have only managed to read 50 pages. I just can't get into it. Maybe I'm just not in the mood so I'll reserve judgment.

Brian Harris: What I meant by slapstick in the Ewok scenes are, for instance, Wicket hanging onto the speeder bike, the Ewoks trying to stop an AT-ST with a rope and that Ewok hitting himself around the head with that "rock on a rope" or whatever it's called. But it's not just the slapstick, it's the way the whole battle lacks any credibility. All those scenes where Ewoks attack the stormtroopers with wooden spears and the Imps just fall over immediately. And that final scene where Han tricks the Imps into opening the back door. A group of troops come out and are confronted by a gang of teddy bears holding bits of wood and they give up!

There's nothing wrong with the idea of a primitive culture/technology overcoming a superior one, but it must be done with some credibility. The later scenes in the battle do show the Ewoks using their environment intelligently -- the log devices, etc. -- but by that time the credibility of the film had been severely damaged for me.

Having said all that, I must confess that had I liked the Ewoks to begin with, I would have probably been willing to stretch my credibility a bit further. I guess that's the thing about fantasies -- you can get away with an awful lot if your audience is enchanted enough.

Yvette Ghilan: David Lynch did not destroy *Dune*! It's not his fault that the producers edited his film to bits. Even so, what's left on the screen is amazing. The sets, the costumes, the photography are all stunning. The look and feel of the film is very close to the way I imagined it while reading the book. Lynch even lets us hear the characters' thoughts, a device often used in books but rarely in films. As for Lynch saying that he dislikes science fiction, I don't remember him ever saying that. But it's quite common for a director to resist the label of science fiction being applied to their film. They desperately come up with new definitions such as "science speculation", "science fantasy", "futuristic drama" or the latest one, "science eventuality."

Lynch spent nearly 4 years on *Dune*. So it doesn't seem likely that he hated the book, does it? David Lynch didn't destroy *Dune*, but *Dune* damn near destroyed Lynch. I don't think he'll ever tackle an epic science fiction film again, which is a pity, since I'm certain he'd make a great SW episode.

I don't dislike the Ewoks 'cos they're cute. I like lots of cute stuff: Bambi, Artoo, E.T., etc. I dislike the Ewoks 'cos they're dumb and irritating. Do you like the

Ewoks? You didn't say either way.

Liz Sharpe: I agree with you about Dagobah. It does have an unreal quality about it. I also get the feeling that it exists outside of ordinary time. In TESB, Luke seems to have been there for weeks, while Han and Leia seem to have spent only a day or 2 travelling between Hoth and Bespin.

Tim Blaes: Don't remember seeing General Veers in ROTJ. I liked the *Art of the SW Galaxy* but I agree that they should have chosen some of the other art to reprint.

I don't believe that Hobbie's kamikaze scene was ever included in any prints. However, there was a slight difference between the theatrical versions of TESB here and in the U.S. In this country, TESB had a "U" certificate, which is the equivalent of your "G" rating. However, to get it they had to cut short the sounds of Han's screams when he's being tortured. However, when the movie came out on video those sounds were restored and the video was "PG".

Michelle Malkin: By saying that *men's* actions are due to their hormones, you put yourself in the same category as those men that say *women's* actions are due to their hormones. It's a simplistic theory which doesn't help much.

Louise Turner: Oh, who cares about Wedge. You're always on about Wedge, "Why didn't Wedge get a medal?" Never mind that, there's someone else who didn't get a medal, someone very brave, someone that no one gives any consideration to. Yes, you know who I'm talking about: C3PO. No one ever seems to stick up for the poor guy. Okay, so he's a bit nervous at times. Who wouldn't be? But where would our heroes be without him. They'd still be in the trash masher or being eaten by the Ewoks. And do they ever listen to him? No, they might have avoided that unpleasantness on Bespin if they'd bothered to heed his warning about the hyperdrive. Everyone is constantly rude to him, with the exception of Luke. Why doesn't anyone ever listen to him. After all, he's only trying to do his job. I reckon I know why. It's 'cos he's English, isn't it? C'mon, admit it.

New Merchandise: I think the Micro Machines are really nice, but those Bend-'Ems are pretty crappy. I still enjoy *Classic Star Wars* mostly for the artwork. I don't think much of the "Droids" comic, tho. I had a look at the re-issue of *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*. The new foreword by Lucas doesn't tell us much.

The Next Trilogy: I'd like to see some discussion on what people think the new trilogy will be like. I must admit I can't really imagine what he's going to fill 3 films with. I certainly hope there are more women involved this time. "Mrs. Skywalker" and "Mrs. Kenobi"? On the technical side, I wish Lucas would

shoot them in 70mm. It seems ridiculous to me that major movies are shot on 35mm when 30 years ago they were filmed in 70mm. One of the problems I can foresee with the storyline is the inevitability factor. I mean, we all know what becomes of Anakin Skywalker. I think most of the audience will be more concerned with Anakin than Ben. I think Lucas will make "Mrs. Skywalker" the major character. We're all very interested in knowing about her but we don't know what happened to her so she could certainly be the life force of the story.

The New Guide to the SW Universe: I'm sure this is going to cause some arguments. The timeline at the beginning is interesting. However, fans I've spoken to don't accept that Luke and Leia are 18 as of ANH. My feeling is that Luke is 18 since that's what it says in *The Art of SW*. I know in most other places he's described as 20+, but the script has to be the highest source of info. Unless George says otherwise. The problem is that Leia is 16 in the script. Obviously, Lucas hadn't decided at that point to make them twins.

The odd thing about this book is that Raymond Velasco isn't mentioned anywhere.

Collectibles: According to Stephen Sansweet, there were more than 250 million SW figures made. That means an average more than 2-1/2 million of each one. And now apparently they're the most collectible items! Does this make sense to anyone? There's 250 million of them and we're supposed to believe that they're rare? ((Ed: *Wonder how many of them are in landfills now?*))

I never really got the bug for collecting the toys. For me, it was mostly magazines and books. I must admit I did get the card collecting bug for a while. The cards were good. They often had unusual pictures. Most of the TOPPS card series weren't available over here. I eventually managed to get most of them, though. I'm still looking for a Yellow Star Wars set, so if anyone has a set for sale, let me know.

The Laserdisk Set: Has anyone watched this? Is there anything interesting on it? I know there are no extra scenes, but is there anything good in the supplements or the commentary?

Well, that's all for now. Hope you all have a great summer.



G.C. 93

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June 21, 1994

Just wanted to say hi to everyone who wasn't at MWC! Wasn't the con a blast? I really enjoyed talking to everyone about their zine projects and about fandom in general. Christmas does come twice a year!

Thanks also to the folks who made the Star Awards, the doll exhibit possible, and who sat on the SW panels. Everything was great!

Well, I may challenge Jacqueline Taero for the "Shortest Letter" title, so here goes nothing...

Yvette Ghilan: Your question about the Ewoks is legitimate and it definitely started the ol' mental gears a-grinding. I realized that my reactions to the Ewoks was based more on disappointment than actual dislike. In all my travels (be it seeing movies or reading), I ran across such fascinating beings and cultures, *i.e.*, Vulcans, Klingons, Cardassians, Mon Calamari, Corellians, Bajorans, Ithorians (see gaming sourcebook for SW trilogy), Data, 3PO, R2, Harkonnens, and the Kwisatz Haderach, to name a few -- and they all made me stop and think and question: How did the author come up with such a great idea? Why can't our culture do things or see things that way? Or, basically, why didn't I think of that? I came away learning something afterwards. In sum, the Ewoks didn't show me much substance so they didn't grab my attention very much. As I said before, after much thought, I realized the Ewoks provided us with a few good lessons: don't give up, even when faced with overwhelming odds; war isn't the answer; and they may look cute, but they're ferocious so don't judge a book by the cover.

One last thing: Maybe the Ewoks were short-shrifted by ROTJ. They didn't get enough screen time perhaps. Also, I'm not totally put off by the Ewoks. If I were, ROTJ would not be gracing my video shelf. (Forevermore, I will be bearing the slings and arrows from family and friends: what kind of fan are you? Your collection's incomplete! Nope, *Star Trek V: The Travesty* is not crossing the threshold of my household!)

If you know of any fan writers who have written about the Ewoks -- let me know. I'll be glad to give the little critters another chance.

Sorry, Cheree, I guess this letter isn't so short. Pardon also the errors -- I am sitting here writing during a dark, stormy and electricity-less night. (Hear me, candle? Hold together...) Ha! the electricity came back on...

Anyway, I hope things are working out for you and Randy. Thanks again for SE!

Hello to everyone who didn't make it to MWC and I hope to see you folks there next year. Keep flyin' casual. Thanks also for the blaster battle. That was great to watch, too!

THE LOVE OF SW

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June 16, 1994

Well, now that the dust has settled from the big shebang of MWC, I look forward to hearing all the news from everyone fortunate enough to have been there. I'll be with you next year, that's a sure thing. Hope everyone had a swell time and came out ready for action. The buzz topic this time around: the love of SW. What it means to each of us, how it affects our lives, and what we can do to preserve it.

There really isn't any simple way to discuss it; in this forum, that word's open to some rather broad interpretations, much like SW in general. It's amazing how we take something like a song or a movie or an idea -- a phenomenon, if you will -- and make it an active part of our lives. We write about it, talk about it, analyze it to death, kick back and enjoy it, or we can ignore it if it doesn't particularly mesh with our preconceived ideals and carry on with a safer alternative. It's a matter of choices and we all have to make them.

In SW fandom, we all have differing philosophies and opinions about the world at large, yet we organize together to rejoice in our love for SW and the gifts George Lucas has given to us. We also agree that it's okay to formulate our own explanations, to expound upon things which, originally, aren't satisfying until we do our own part in making it whole. We can swoon and sigh over the wonders of the universe, we can rant civilly that (fill in the blank) doesn't work like that, we create our own chapters in the Saga and hope that others will at least accept it for what it is without blacklisting us or condemning our efforts.

All I'm saying is, this in-fighting really bites it. It's not my place to say who is right, or who needs to think things over, but without all of us, there would be none of us.

Z. P. Florian: I tend to agree with you about the Force being a power or philosophy (what did Kenobi refer to it as? The instinct, according to his first

conversation with Luke) which certain folks sensitive to its existence could call upon and manipulate, for the greater good or for their own designs. What would you say of a race or an individual who could sense and use the Force, but was totally innocent of Right Versus Wrong? Sort of like James Blish's Lithians in *A Case of Conscience*. It's something I'm exploring in some SW fanfic I'm working on.

Tim Blaes: I think I'd call myself a "Jedi" collector. I get a lot more mileage from novels, sourcebooks, and artwork than, say, from my old Kenner figurines. *Great Babes of the Galaxy*... probably a bunch of ditzzy suicide blondes traipsing about in aluminum bikinis. Not my speed, thanks.

Yvette Ghilan: I would argue against the notion that automata in the SW universe have souls, as such. Computers and programming in general can eventually mimic the quirks of an organic, but they don't get it right. There is a reason that See Threepio "doesn't understand human behavior": he was programmed to function among them, not get caught up in their petty conflicts. Of course, ol' Goldenrod is a major character and deserves a bit more gratitude than is given him, as well as most droids. But to say that all sentient beings in the SW universe get along fine and dandy is a stretch. With the exception of the Mon Calamari, for the most part, all the nonhumans we see in the movies are drunk! Of course, they're going to get along!

Debbie Kittle: Will you please stop teasing me with the news about all the licensed SW goodies coming out? (Smile). Just ask my pal Mary Jo about it; she'll tell you it's a conspiracy that we happily take part in!

Ewoks: I would venture that the two telemovies took place before ROTJ, and here's why. The family crashed on a world that few knew about, and by the time Noa and Cindel make it off Endor, suppose an Imperial scout ship intercepted them, traced their path back to the Sanctuary Moon, surveyed the aborigines and reported back to their superiors with the good news that they had found a safe place to finish up the second Death Star. Okay, so what happened to Noa and Cindel? There's probably a dozen different stories about them waiting to be told... Oh, yeah -- "Why does Wicket speak Standard in the TV flicks and not in ROTJ?" For storytelling purposes, I guess. Name a kid who's going to pay much attention to a ball of fuzz who speaks a primitive language for two hours. Not many...

Catriona: Too many questions! Next topic! I guess I'm more interested in what she's doing post-ROTJ than what she's done in the past. Sorry, I just don't have it in me.

Veronica: Hi! What to talk about this time? We've been filling Ma Bell's coffers for a while, so to speak, to

a particular facet of our personalities or a lingering thought of what we'd like to see in ourselves, because we feel that we have something to say about ourselves on an unconscious level? And is it possible that we who write in the SW universe feel we can do that in a comfortable environment? Or do we do it strictly for the entertainment value that we think these tales possess? What do you folks think about all this, or is this too deep a subject worth discussing in SE?

To everyone I didn't personally respond to or comment to this issue: Sorry, I'm a bit rushed right now. Promise I'll get back to y'all before too long. Listen, gotta bolt. Take care, and save some of that brualiki for me. (What the hell *is* brualiki, anyway?)

A CORELLIAN JULIA CHILD?

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June 15, 1994

Unreal, people. In my last letter, I was carping about the snow, and as I write this, we're in the middle of a heat wave. Guess you could say it's a whole 'nother season!

MediaWest: To all those who were there... Was that a great convention, or what?! To all those who didn't/couldn't attend, consider making it a New Year's resolution for 1995, or a yearly pilgrimage. It's a wonderful tandem experience. From all the new SW zines in the dealers' roon, to the SW panel discussions, to the Star Awards ceremony for the best writers and artists, (congratulations to *all* the winners!) to the SW costumes (there was a Calamarian, a Jawa, a Tusken Raider, lots of Corellians, Jedis, a smattering of aliens, Imperials, Rebels *and* the Emperor, right down to the F.O.E. SW 'cantina' where we raised our glasses and shouted, "*Remember Alderaan!*", it was almost as if we *had* been teleported off the rock of mundanity to reappear in a galaxy far, far away. It was great.

SW novels: Well, aside from discussing snow, in my last LOC to SE, I stated that I had developed a more tolerant attitude to all the different literary interpretations of the SW universe. To quote Her Worship, "I take it back!" At least where *Courtship of Princess Leia* is concerned. I wanted so badly to like this book but I can't find *one* redeeming feature in the whole abominable disaster. From Han wearing an apron (can you see a Corellian Julia Child?) to Luke sniffing pillows for Han's Force aura (Find him, Luke! Go find Han! Good boy,

good Jedi!) to tame intelligent rancors, (oh puh-leeze!) it *should* have been titled, *Blue Harvest*, a horror beyond imagination! Not only was the story awful, but so was the writing itself! Didn't *anyone* at Lucasfilm read this drivel before publishing?! It was truly the worst SW story I have ever read and far below the quality and creativity of even the most novice of SW fan writers. And the author got *paid* for this!! I tell you, sometimes there's no justice in the world.

Wary, but still a SW fan, I just picked up the second book in Kevin Anderson's trilogy, *Dark Apprentice*, I think it's a telling point that it's the *first* SW book I didn't stop my life for in order to read it immediately. (I know, I know, horrible grammar and sentence structure. *I'm* not getting *paid*). After *Courtship*, I think I'm gunshy ... definitely shell-shocked. Have decided to read all my new SW zines first. I know I'll find good writing in there!

The first book, *Jedi Search*, was not bad, better than Zahn's books, but not as good as *Truce at Bakura*. (Still my favorite, written by a fan and it shows!) I had a few major quibbles with it. Don't think that Leia and Han's children would spend their first two years, very important formative, crucial years, *away* from their parents. That goes against everything we know about parent/child bonding ... force or no force! Plus I can't see Han *allowing* it. "Separate me from my kids for 2 years? Over my dead body!" I also shook my head at Leia's reaction to Han's unexplained lateness from a mission. She would immediately become worried, and instigate an investigation or organize a search and rescue party, not attribute the absence and silence to Han having a good time somewhere and merely forgetting to call or come home. *Search* also had a glitch, I thought, with the author's explanation of spice. If this stuff can enable anyone to read another's mind, why didn't the Empire use it on Leia to find out the rebels' secret base, instead of torturing her? This is why Lucas should give fan writers a chance. We have the films memorized, we wouldn't make that kind of error.

Z.P.: Call me paranoid, call me a pessimist, call me a worry-wart, call me a pain-in-the-ass, if you prefer, but I've got a bad feeling about this. I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that I *think* you should maybe, perhaps rethink publishing, *The Rest of The Garbage*. Not from a purist point of view, because the Maker knows I am guilty of changing the whole plot line of one of my stories if it means I won't be able to describe Han Solo in bed at least once. It's not censorship either or worries about offending anyone's moral sensibilities. (Everyone's on their own). It's courtesy towards the man who *gave* us the SW universe. George Lucas has made his wishes very clear on this. He doesn't want to see his

creations, his characters in sexually explicit or slash situations. I think we should respect that. George has let us "play" in his universe with no restrictions other than the aforementioned ones. Nevermind that the idle master hasn't been actively overseeing his property for the last decade, it's still his. It would be awful if he felt the need to issue any cease and desist orders, though justified, for we have been warned. If we want to go underground, sharing such literature from friend to friend, that's one thing, but publicly seeking submissions and selling such a zine on the open fan market would, *IMO*, be a mistake. Perhaps I'm an alarmist, but history could repeat itself and while I was not even aware of SW fandom during the so-called Porn Wars, I've heard enough horror stories that I wouldn't want it to happen again. It's just something to seriously consider. We get away with almost everything else where SW is concerned, why push it over the edge?

Mary Jo Fox: The only thing missing from the end of your LoC were the fireworks bursting overhead. Well said. It's true we do sometimes turn the SW universe into a soap opera, burdening its players with all manner of emotional baggage, dark secrets, closet skeletons, fears, personal crises -- giving them "flaws", if you will -- instead of just enjoying the story we've been presented with. But we also, in defense of the cynics and the writers, derive a great deal of enjoyment from watching the players rise above those flaws within the context of the films.

Brian Harris: Regarding Jedi breeders, one could also use as an analogy the Darkover novels, in which there were arranged marriages between noble families in order to breed or enhance the *Laran* abilities of ESP, telekinesis, telepathy, etc. Heredity in particular was a major plot point and focus in the series.

Yvette: Sigh, I'm going to go out on another limb here (I'm starting to feel like a sparrow) and disagree with your statement that anything other than what is shown or heard in the 3 films is a *waste* of paper and tape. For those of us who became fans from day one, it's been 11 years since the last film. A long time to sustain a loyal fandom without additional output for us to input. That "paper and tape" has helped keep SW alive. And I hope I was mistaken, but the implication seems to be there that you include fan fiction in this description. Fan fiction, however for some of us may stray from the movies or embellish the known facts with our own imagination, remains the single factor most responsible for bringing SW fans together. Fan fiction has enabled us to make friends all over the world, meeting people, soulmates, we would never have met otherwise. That is perhaps the greatest gift SW has given us. Without fan fiction, there would be no zines (perish the thought) and

no one would know that there were others in the world with an equal passion for SW. What a lonely bunch we'd be. A waste? I think not.

And I admit to accepting some fan fiction as "canon", because there are those stories that fit *my* personal interpretation of the SW universe. I choose to accept some and not accept others -- that's my prerogative -- but all interpretations, no matter the source -- be it the films, be it Brian Daley, WestEnd Books, the new novels, yes, even *The Courtship of Princess Leia*, is *valid* in the mind and the heart of the individual who chooses to accept it as such.

A. G. Steyn: I can always count on your LoC to make me smile. The additions to Z. P.'s suggested story starters were nothing short of inspired lunacy and displayed a continuing humorous irreverency for SW that is welcome counterpoint to the seriousness of it as well. And you bet I'm eager for the next Indiana Jones movie! What an unexpected present from Harrison and LucasFilm after I was sure *Last Crusade* would indeed be the last. Harrison is signed to film a remake of *Sabrina* for next year, by then Steven will have had *his* year off, so I figure we'll probably get Indy IV in 1996.

Pat Grant: Good to see you in these pages. Turn about is fair play, as I'd like to thank *you* for creating the F.O.E. (as well as remaining its driving *Force*, if you'll excuse the pun). I've never had so much fun as when I'm role playing in the Cantina or watching all the other players. The F.O.E. outdid themselves this year. The new Cantina location, "The Imperial Room" (*very* appropriate), was just perfect. All that was missing was the alien jazz group!

Debbie Kittle: Ha! I've got next winter beat. Put a down payment on an industrial size snowblower, which means ... if my track record in such situations hold ... that it will never snow in the Northeast section of the U.S. again ... or at least over my particular driveway and sidewalk.

Hey, Screamin' Models is coming out with a new Han Solo. Smaller, cheaper and it looks a lot more like Han. *This* one I ordered. As for the Bend-Ems, any idea why Han is conspicuously absent in the collection? I find the omission ... "disturbing." Also saw an ad for the Lucasfilm Fan Club newsletter and it looks like they are changing their format to focus on the new SW films with retrospectives to the old and also focusing on the next II film.

As for the "Ode to the Overwhelming Qualities of Mara Jade", better you should ask the great Fiorenzo how many *words*, or better yet, how many words of more than one syllable would comprise this literary masterpiece. Single digits come to mind.

Liz Sharpe: I want to read that impromptu Mary Sue

story you used to illustrate your *aliens terms* point. It had me smiling as is and I already had it visualized in my head. *That's* good writing.

Tim Blaes: I loved *Explorers*... Even had the soundtrack.

Veronica Wilson: You made a great emperor at the con! Interesting points you made regarding popular culture and the working class. It's more difficult to include that group of people as the center of a SW story when writing mainstream SW, because the fans, for the most part, want the focus on the main characters. The Cantina anthologies due out in the future may have stories along those lines. *It is* a vast untapped story field and would be very interesting to view our favorite characters strictly from the viewpoint of an "average" galactic citizen. We wouldn't know what Han, Leia, or Luke would be thinking, only see their actions from a third party perspective.

Cheryl Pryor: Well, you were right. After I saw the SW dolls diorama exhibit, I walked around barefoot! Very, very clever, sheer inventive, creative genius, and wickedly tongue-in-cheek. Just well done. I daresay even ILM would have given you a tip of the hat, or would that be a tip of the blue screen?

I think it's hilarious coincidence that just as we bring up *Space Ghost*, he gets his own latenight talk show, 11 p.m. Eastern time, on the Cartoon network. Move over Jay and David! What a hoot!

Catriona: You and Maggie N. had my gray cells percolating with your comments about Luke or any other Jedi using Force abilities to handle everything that came down the pike. Zahn was aware of this problem in writing, hence his creation of the ysalamiri to block the force. Maybe we need to create something like that, a "kryptonite" of sorts for Force users. If they can do anything, where's the challenge? Just how powerful *is* the power of the Force? Is that power limitless? If Force users are capable of telekinesis (levitating rocks, snatching blasters), could a Jedi theoretically *move* planets, deflect the solar wind, alter the path of a comet? Yoda said, "Size matters not," didn't he? To go in the opposite direction, does a Jedi's power work on the molecular level? To be a healer, it would have to. Could it go smaller than that, making Jedis capable of gene manipulation? What *can't* a Jedi do?

Catherine Churko: Flowers! Got petunias and impatiens all over the place. Tiger lilies and geraniums, roses, violets, pansies, zinnias! I love them. So much prettier than ice crystals.

Well, don't want this letter to run on any longer. (Thank God, sighs our esteemed editor) for *moi* is a horrid typist. I figure I've managed to stir up enough trouble and controversy for one issue. Hope everyone

has a super summer. I'm, of course, eagerly waiting for August 5th when Harrison's new film, *Clear and Present Danger* is released (also starring James Earl Jones) where he reprises his role as CIA agent Jack Ryan. That's one agent I'd *love* to go deep undercover with! Bye!

P.S. Has anyone else heard the Howard Stern radio interview with Mark Hamill done earlier this year? A friend sent me a cassette copy and I was wondering how other fans reacted to this?

MEDIAWEST MUSINGS

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G'day, all! Well, I survived that trans-Pacific-Kessel flight yet again ... and again it was well worth the jet-lag and the trauma to my budget! It never ceases to amaze me how MWC just gets better and better! Of course, that may simply be due to the fact that each year I'm very privileged to have more friends to catch up with! It's enough to make your head spin trying to hold a year's worth of conversations with dozens of people in one long weekend, and has been suggested by more than one attendee that we make MWC a week-long event! Damn the torpedoes, so to speak! I mean, we all look like zombies after just four days ... but what a way to die!

Maybe I was jet-lagged completely out of my head, but Saturday morning as I was sitting in the atrium with Liz (Lizard) Sharpe, trying to prise more info from her re her upcoming SW stories, I looked around, saw umpteen people milling about the place, wearing various expressions of rapture and a whole thesaurus of t-shirt messages as they embraced long-lost friends. There was traffic to and from the Dealers' Room, Art Hall, Registration, Video Room, Imperial Room (where a monster of a Blaster Battle was in progress!), Fanzine Reading Room, Fan Q Ballots to be entered, Swordplay and juggling being practiced outside in a courtyard bathed with sunlight and the fragrance of lily-of-the-valley and the sound of the fountain bubbling cheerfully to itself...

Okay, okay, so I was jet-lagged outa my mind! But in this trance-like state, it all suddenly seemed like I'd died and gone to heaven (an unlikely scenario for this Corellian) -- so thus I revised the setting to reminding me of Rivendell in Tolkein's *Lord of the Rings*. The "last homely home"! So many creative, fun-loving people in one place at one time! Party city! (And there were *plenty* of those over the weekend!) I gave the

Rivendell scenario to Liz and she agreed. It really did sorta feel like that to us just then. And that's precisely what gets me emptying my purse and hauling my butt halfway around the world every year. MediaWest is pure *magic*!

All right, I'll try to be a little more specific. First up is the eerie fact that it seems time has stood still between MediaWests. You just take up exactly where you left off last time, as if this is your *real* life and the rest was a dream. (Wince. I guess one shouldn't really relate that observation to one's family back home! ... Swipe!) But that's the feeling when you get to completely dismiss all the mundane problems of the earthly realm for a few days!

For me, it begins earlier than most, Tuesday this year, when I arrived in Chicago and was met by my good friend Judy Yuenger and her husband. Naturally, Judy and I started talking fannish stuff immediately and never stopped until we said goodbye again. I had the fun of continuing the talk as we collated Judy and Ming's excellent SW Bibliography zine the next day (a true bargain at only \$5.00). Then, a bonus thrill that night when I was able to talk on-line "live" via Genie to Vonda McIntyre re her forthcoming SW novel, *Star Chrystal*. She has a wonderful sense of humor which I'm sure will translate well to the new book, and she seems to be right on with her characterization of Solo, telling us that she was particularly interested in how this man, former rogue, is handling all the tumultuous changes in his life ... especially his reaction when his and Leia's twins (now 5 years old) are kidnapped. Apparently, Leia feels it through the Force but Han is unaware ... and not happy when he realized fully that he will forever be unable to share that metaphysical bond with his children. There are some fascinating aliens in this story, too ... so who knows, maybe it, like Tyers' *Truce*, will prove to be one of the better pro SW novels.

Off-track, I know, but I skim-read *The Courtship of Princess Leia* while at Judy's and, for the most part, absolutely loved it! Caught myself laughing aloud more than once. Some of the dialogue rang so true to characters that I could almost hear it. I had some problems with the opening chapters ... felt Leia was out of character, can't see her swooning over some matinee-idol type so fast, so deep like that. But did enjoy the overall fantasy flavor of the book. I'd also read *Jedi Search*, which reminds me somewhat of Brian Daley's style, but it just didn't seem to have much to say and fell flat emotionally. As I recall, there were some plot errors and no way would Han and Leia name their son Anakin! I had to force myself to read this one.

Anyway, back to the con. (Don't I wish!) Judy and I drove there Thursday morning, immediately began

meeting with friends -- Ming, Marti, Z. P., Sheryl, Debbie, J. P. Treleven, etc., etc. We set up the SW Outpost, sold some stuff and attracted many an impromptu SW party! Later, we did some "touring the halls", as we call it, in search of various zines for sale, and just curious to meet people and see what other goodies are for sale! Kathy Agel arrived off the elevator and, of course, we had to do the hugging routine. (My toe will never be the same again, Kathy. Yes, folks, I wasn't wearing shoes at the time!) Kathy tells me she has a "proposition for me" -- hey, I'm not that kinda girl! She wants to do a "Golledge Collected"! Is that okay by me?! Say what?! Like WOW! Talk about being flattered! Of course, it should be interesting to see how Solo fares through all those medical experiences back-to-back!

Friday rolled around with *lots* to do! Registration (thanks, Judy!) and all the controversy over next year's planned room lottery! Then, a new fun-aside for me. I got to enter some (I use the term loosely) artwork in the art contest. They put my stuff next to Fister-Liltz! Augh! There were SW panels to attend -- we discussed the changing face of the hero, less aggression, more brains/compassion -- and SW parties in abundance! They say the Imperial Room party was the best MWC party in years! I signed up my Blaster Battle local color persona, Major Calamity, dressed up in my Corellian gear and generally had a good time. Wanda Lybarger showed up dressed as some kind of fly/bug and the Raid jokes ran thick and fast! Here, too, the highlight was reunion with friends -- Mark and Melea Fisher and the doings of the F.O.E. group.

Saturday was dealer's room exploration day! Then another high point -- Debbie Kittle caught up with me to tell me I'd better be in the Imperial room at 1 p.m. or I'd be lynched. Hohkay! She and Z. P. had us all in stitches as well as impressed by their doll display -- The Golledge Memorial Hospital -- which I (for some obscure reason) was given the privilege of opening. I cut the ribbon, after being told I was supposed to cut it rather than chop off Han Solo's leg! (He looked so cute, lying there dressed only in bandages and casts, a sign over his bed reading "Patient of the Year!") There were several other hilarious signs and scenes. Well done, gang!

I took time out for some reading after I picked up a copy of Nora Mayers *Pursuit of the Nashtah*, flipped through it and was immediately hooked! What a great story! Action, suspense ... trashing! Of course, there wasn't time at the con for real reading. I left that until the flight home. I highly recommend Nora's work. Buy yourself a copy today and join your favorite heroes on another adventure against some unexpected enemies.

I wasn't present at the time (darn!) but I heard back

only glowing praise for Ann Goetz and Company's opening to the Blaster Battle. All said they were truly transported back to a galaxy far, far away. Major Calamity was very nearly transported from this world for real when she choked on her Tatooine Sunrise! Ya gotta watch those Mos Eisley bartenders.

Saturday night was the best party of 'em all! Which, you ask? Why the SE party, of course! It also became a Masquerade Play viewing as yours truly turned on the TV to see how close Ken Kiesel was to his Monty Python special. Didn't want to miss that, but didn't intend to "subvert" the SE proceedings, though no one seemed to mind, judging by all the laughter. Here, I had the very real privilege of *at last* meeting Pat Nussman. It was her Han/Leia stories that led to my interest in SW zine writing, because Pat didn't write enough of 'em! I left the party for half hour or so to attend an Aussie gathering in Bill Hupe's room. Boy, those Aussies sure do talk real strange, don't they?

I should have known I couldn't leave Judith alone too long. Returned to have her announce she'd decided to put out her own SW zine next year! A chiefly comedy-oriented zine! Great idea, but, hey, Judy, you've already got a work load to crush a heavy-worlder! So we all sat around, thinking up stories and titles ... and I believe it was Arwen who came up with the winner -- *I Don't Care What You Smell!* Sounds about right! So, c'mon, everybody write! Sounds like there will be an abundance of SW zines next year! Well done, all! There were plenty of new zines at this year's con, too, what with Nora's *Nashtah*, Kathy's *Scruffy Looking*, and so on. Mary Jean Holmes amazed and thrilled us all by getting out another issue of *Shadowstar* #34, only three weeks before the con! Some great stories therein!

Most highly recommended from me is Wanda Lybarger's "Mirrors" in *Bright Center* #4. Solo clones working for the Empire! Brilliant characterization and plotting! And a real, almost literal, cliff-hanger finish! Nail-biting excitement underlaid with a remarkable depth of feeling and some very moving scenes. I've reread the ending several times, simply because I don't want to leave that feeling behind! And the frosting on the cake are some wonderful illos by the author. I defy anyone to glance at those illos and not immediately have to sit down and start reading.

Well, I've prattled on enough already and we haven't even got to Sunday and the Star Awards. Congratulations to all the winners. Personally, I was particularly delighted to see Marti Schuller and Veronica Wilson's well-deserved win. Way to go, guys! I was also very happy to see Gerald Crotty win for best illo artist. He's done some terrific work for several stories, not least of all his beautifully detailed work for my

"Accidental Hero" in BC#4. Mucho thanks, Gerald! The Fan Q's I have to say were a real deflating experience by comparison. Not so much because of the "who won" aspect (was very pleased to see Wanda's "Glass Garden" earn a just reward for all the hard work), but just the atmosphere of presentation ... or lack thereof. They should take lessons from Judy in how to make a presentation ceremony something special and to be remembered.

Also on Sunday I attended several panels. Most highly recommended is Cindy Walker's Advanced Writers two-hour session. She gives some very concise and useful info on the nitty gritty aspects of tackling a story. I was also delighted when she offered to sit with me during the Art Auction and take a look at the pro novel I'm *still* hoping to sell. In the midst of all this, I even sold some of my "artwork"! Amazing!

Monday was also fun, but marred by the usual sad farewells ... until next year. Wouldn't miss it!

Thus endeth this messy report. Hope I at least managed to capture some of the madcap, heart-warming fun of MWC for those of you unable to attend.

Okay, now some LoC notes from comments jotted in the margins of last SE. Only made comments on the last half of the letters 'cos I didn't have a pen before that. (See, Cheree, there is a God.)

Let's see ... Veronica: Story ideas re your mention of the SW characters' need for group counselling. Come on, this would make a *great* piece for Judy's comedy zine!

Catriona: Have been meaning to say, I think that Mata Hari episode of *Young Indy* must have aired in Australia first as we saw way back. Can't understand why Lucas made any fuss about showing it in the U.S. Discussion re Leia's possible family -- another great story idea. Han meets the in-laws at the wedding! And the in-laws meet *him* and Luke! And find out about Daddy dear! ((Ed: *Anyone remember Annie Wortham's hilarious "In-Law" series of stories? There was one take-off on Leia meeting all of Han's relatives and they all turned out to be thinly-disguised characters from fan-created universes -- all the mothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, brothers, etc. It was a scream!*))

Michelle Malkin: Sounds like you and I use precisely the same method of writing. Is this good or bad? Wonder how we'd change if we *did* have computers? I mean, would we be so busy playing with the new toy that we'd never get stories written? Having experienced GENie while at Judy's, I know my time for writing would wind up severely cut!

Hearty appaluse, second your comments to Yvette Ghilan re her grouping of pornography, smut and homosexuality in the same breath, so to speak. It's a free

world and a person's choice of sexuality is their business and, while I personally don't want to read it, people who prefer slash and/or more adult-oriented stories, SW or other, have as much right to read them as we do those we prefer. It's all a matter of having the means and the right to choose.

Michelle/Liz and party talk ... as in the Dead Bothan Society. Please, keep it private, unless you wanna read about the Aussie trying to *swim* the Pacific! Augh! I can't stand missing out on these occasions!

Louise Turner: Speaking for my demented self, I can and *must* write anywhere and everywhere! Being the family chauffeur does that. Also lends a peculiar glassy-eyed stare to one's passengers! Good point re how come the surviving pilots of Yavin did not also get medals ... unless ... maybe this was the reward ceremony, or section thereof, for Princess-rescuers! And as to *Jurassic Park*, a big *right on* re the cow being the thing that matters. Cow Liberators of the World Unite!

You, Catherine Churko and me re the scene with the shuttle landing on Endor -- there's a spine-tingling otherworldly beauty to that moment on film.

And that's it! Rest dem fingers, Cheree. See ya next time!

LIKES PRO NOVELS

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Z. P. Florian: It might not be polite for an author to distribute their stories while the zine they appear in is still in print, but I'm not sure it's wrong. The rights do revert back to the contributor. But if an author feels the need to distribute their story or art they should distribute their own manuscript and not lift it out of the zine if it's still in print.

I'm sorry I didn't join in on your round-robin storytelling at MWC this year. I'm just not spontaneous enough to improvise off the top of my head. What might work better for next year would be for you to develop a form of role-playing, one that doesn't involve tossing dice or running around in the hallways of the hotel.

Mary Jo Fox: I love the idea of your proposed Leia zine, but the title sounds a bit stiff. How about *The Pride of Alderaan* or even *Her Royal Worshipfulness' Zine*? Whatever you call it, I'll buy it. I may even contribute. I've promised myself that a novella I did way back in high school will finally see print before the end of the year, but if I have time and can keep momentum, I just might send you a tale of Leia at a boarding school

somewhere in the CSA. Seeing as how I've never been at an all-girl boarding school, I could use input from anyone who has. I'd like to know just how much trouble could a girl get into at such an environment?

Brian Harris: Having finally read Zahn's trilogy, I must say I don't understand what all the complaining was about. I enjoyed them, found nothing embarrassing in them. More about this later, perhaps. As for the Marvel comics, I thought they did a wonderful job capturing the spirit of the first movie during the first three years, though they started to wobble a bit after TESB. After ROTJ, well, I don't think they had any idea what to do or where to go. To some degree, I think we felt the same way, and this may have accounted for the "death" of SW fandom after ROTJ.

Yvette Ghilan: I did not respond "angrily" to you regarding the existence or not of clocks in the SW universe. No one was angry with you, we simply disagreed with you. And referring to Catriona as "Dear Miss Goody Two Shoes" was more than a little impolite.

When the first Death Star was approaching Yavin the screen display featured quite a bit of numerical information, some of which could quite logically be the time. Ditto, Luke's electro-binoculars on Tatooine.

There are a lot of things we don't see in the movies that are probably there, nevertheless. Toilets, for example. Speaking of which, I wonder what most humanoids use to wipe themselves with? Three sea shells? I think they use paper.

My zine publisher has a video converter that seems to do more than just copy PAL to NTSC, but any number of other video systems. It even had a little Mercator protection map of the world, listing all the different systems. I have no idea how much it cost, though, or where to get one.

Marti Schuller: I've read in a number of places that a man could theoretically carry a child to term, though they would have to perform a caesarian section, of course. If the Emperor did sterilize Luke, but the damage was not genetic, then perhaps Luke could carry a clone of himself. The potential for rejection would be almost zero, and "Luke Jr." could pass on any genetic heritage, should his sterility trouble him. "Spaarti cylinders? We don't need no stinkin' spaarti cylinders!!"

Debbie Kittle: Thinking about Carrie doing a SW novel started another train of thought; does Leia have any literary aspirations? Perhaps she contributed (edited?) what amounts to a fanzine in her younger days? What type of fiction might she work best in? Galactic gothic horror? Historical romance? Spy thrillers? "The Pirate Queen Leiona vs. the Imperial Hoard!!" Wonder what Han might think of that last one.

Strange, I've never really thought of what "Southern

Enclave" had to do with SW. It seemed natural enough, I just accepted it. I'm not sure I'm part of the "Eastern Enclave", more like I'm stuck in the "Appalachian Asteroid field".

Jeannie Webster: I would think that consistency is a vital part of being able to tell a story. That goes double for F&SF; violate your "reality" and you invalidate your story.

Lucas probably got those Cray super computers cheap at some yard sale. Video Toasters, modified Amiga PCs, are what churn out most of the SFX for *Babylon 5*. The Toaster can perform computer generated imagery that would give a Cray a headache. In another five years or so we might be able to do SFX like they do.

Liz Sharpe: On page 97 of *The Art of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* we can see an early idea for the terrain of Dagobah; hilly plains filled with large, bush-like fungi. If Dagobah is subjective to certain people's perceptions, then perhaps, in that alternate universe where farm girl Leia went off to rescue her brother the prince, the fungus covered Dagobah is what she would have found.

Re, the "Zahn Things", I must say that I don't know what some of you expect from the pro novels, except possibly that they should be just like the fanzines. Everyone is entitled to their own subjective response, but I have no major complaint against them. When I read the novels I had no problem hearing the characters speak Zahn's dialogue. I disagree that none of the canon characters experience any growth. What were you expecting, angst & pathos? The *only* complaint I have, and it's a small one, is that Zahn tried too hard to pace the novels exactly like the movies, even to the point of opening each book with a star destroyer.

I waited too long to read Zahn's books because of the bad fan reaction I'd heard in these pages, and now I regret that. At this year's MWC I heard many grumbles about Kevin Anderson's *Jedi Academy* books. This time I'll read them myself before forming an opinion.

Maggie Nowakowska: Most role-playing games I know of admit that, outside of an official tournament, they are just a framework that the game master can alter to their satisfaction. If someone wanted to role-play SW and didn't like West End Games' interpretation, then they are free to install their own interpretation. Or use another system, or even invent their own system. It may be "official" but you don't have to use it.

Veronica Wilson: One of my favorite novels, *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman & Terry Pratchett, is about an angel and a demon who socialize with each other because they have more in common than they do with their own peers and superiors. So I could see Alliance and Imperial fighter pilots preferring each others' company,

but I'm not so sure that a likely neutral setting can be found.

What is this "playing cards idea" you mentioned to Charyl? I seem to remember someone doing SW-themed tarot cards. I think it was in *Pegasus*.

Cheryl Pryor: And I could imagine Luke's mother replying, "Push yourself, you wretched green troll!!!" As for writing fanfic during class, I did that, and it was what kept me awake!

Catriona Campbell: Leia might have had younger siblings on Alderaan. And the only thing we know about Leia's mother was that she "died when (Leia) was very young". I would guess that is at least three to five years after the birth of the twins, plenty of time for her to give birth again to some of Bail's children. We won't know for another two or three years what exactly happened to cause Anakin's fall, or what changes it brought about to his wife. Most of us I think, including myself, have assumed that she would have had to change her identity after "Vader" was born. But that may not be the case. Luke & Leia's parents might not even have been formally married in the first place.

Barbara Anderson: David Prowse paid a surprise visit to a local convention last March. I asked about his hip, and he said it was fine at the moment, but now one of his ankles is giving him trouble. And I'm shocked to say that the Dark Lord has shrunk! He wasn't more than a few inches taller than me. I tried to have my picture taken with him, but the camera malfunctioned. As they say, "Sith Happens."

It is interesting to note that the *Guide to the STAR WARS Universe* seems to include the novelizations and radio dramas as canon. Each entry starts with one of two symbols, one for information taken from "an original Lucasfilm source", including the movies, novelizations, and radio plays. All other material is lumped together as "officially licensed sources that may or may not agree with George Lucas' vision of the Star Wars galaxy."

Yes, I remember *Space Ghost*. You and others misunderstood my question; who was he? We never learned his true name, or even saw him without his mask. When Cheryl Pryor mentioned the similarity between the names of Leia's twins and those of *Space Ghost*'s companions, my imagination began to twist. What if it was finally leaked to the public who Luke & Leia's father was, and Luke had to go into hiding as a result, taking his niece & nephew with him. I'm wondering if we can fit the Herculoids into all this?

Michelle Malkin: What's with this male-bashing? Female supremacy, applied on any level, is as bogus as male supremacy. If such a thing as masculine evil can be said to exist, then there must also be feminine evil. Don't be so smug.

Louise Turner: Try and convince Gail Mihara to speak up and join us.

Tina Bentrup: I seem to remember hearing somewhere that there would be a ROTJ radio show, though I'm not sure if NPR will be broadcasting it. And next year, if Cheree manages to get a suite at MWC, bring a copy of that American Masters segment with George in it. It sound very interesting.

Carolyn Golledge: By one count as many as 10,000 koalas may have died in the fires down there. I can only hope that periodic forest fires are as much a part of Australian ecology as they are in North America's.

Cheree: I don't think the two Ewok specials integrate very well at all; too much outright "magic" that goes far beyond the Force and its level of believability. This is not to say I didn't enjoy them. ((Ed: I had a thought the other night when Katy was watching the first Ewok special [yet again!]. What if the boy -- whatever his name was -- actually was young Han? How could that idea be worked into a story? Also, to my everlasting regret, Katy has now discovered that abominable SW holiday special and has watched it at least four times in as many days. Ackk! I never realized how truly horrible that show was before, right down to Carrie attempting to sing what at times sounds like the SW theme song. And I swear Mark Hamill has on mascara! No wonder Harrison goes through all his scenes with a slightly panic-stricken look!))

The upcoming *Shadow* movie has an interesting angle to it, that Lamont Cranston does what he does to fight the evil inside him. Could this give us some idea of what Anakin would have been like, if he had lived past ROTJ? "Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of Imperials? Anakin knows!! HAHAAAAHA!!!"

IMXINY

Michelle Malkin
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Hello, everyone! Here I am at my dusty ... er ... trusty old typewriter, the Allman Brothers plunkin' and wailin' in the background, rarin' to go answering another SE. The hot weather is already trying to make up for this past winter. It's only the middle of June and we've already had a hundred degree day and 95+ degree days are commonplace. I wonder what July and August will be like!

Z. P. Florian: Han smuggling daffodils? I love it! Then again, perhaps on the planet Sting-pzzt, powdered daffodils are like heroin here. You can never tell with

those Hivers.

I don't see a storm coming in the separation of types of zines. This merely lets people know in advance what to buy and what to avoid. Some editors already circumvent the problem by putting out separate non-slash and slash or slash/adult zines.

Han's youthful lapse with Boba Fett? Considering that it's Edward of Wickham (Jeremy Bulloch) under all that armor, I'd find such a youthful "lapse" entirely understandable. I'd lapse, too! As to my own taste in fannish "porn", I like nice long stories with tons of plot and character development and the occasional sex scene that actually helps develop both plot and character *and* doesn't turn one of the guys into the kind of wimp he never was before. (Hope I haven't disappointed any of the anti-slash crowd who think that all slash involves rape, torture, chains, leather, pain and suffering and all kinds of perverse treatment of your favorite characters. If that's what you want, go read a hurt/comfort zine. Such stories do exist in slash fandom, but not nearly to the degree they do in hurt/comfort stories.)

Tammy Olsen: The people stomping through my apartment weren't deliberately scaring my kitties. They just wanted to see the house my apartment is in in case they decide to buy it. It has been bought, by the way, but I *still* don't know if I'll have to move. I'm going nuts, and my trip to England and Wales is coming up in August! No long tours this time. Either Brit Rail or buses are taking us wherever we want to go -- come rain or come shine -- Stratford for *Twelfth Night*, London for plays and musicals, a real visit to Stonehenge and Avebury, an Elizabethan dinner, a Beatles tour in Liverpool, museums, castles, walks, tons of ruins (or should I learn to say "relics" as the Brits prefer?), more castles and museums in Wales plus train rides through Snodonia National Park and its mines and mountains. The end of August can't come soon enough!

Mary Jo Fox: I saw part of a very weird short on Bravo where Wedge unzipped his chest and a hand popped out. I believe that the inner Wedge eventually replaced the outer blah one. Mucho strange. Symbolic as all hell.

Thank you for your attack on cynicism. I totally agree. Too much Dark Side throws everything out of balance. SW is an attempt to restore the balance. Besides, SW and its characters have to be measured mythically, not in day to day proportions (stop snickering, you fen with the same kind of dirty minds I have), not as everyday people. They can't really be thought of as individuals (except in the context of the stories) since they represent types of people. Anyway, a hero type can't be dragged down, he can only drag himself down. Anakin allowed himself to be dragged

down by his personal demons, but he was returned to his former hero state by the son who never truly gave in to his own demons -- the son who was strong enough to save himself and his father in the bargain. Or was it that Luke gave his father the strength to save himself? I prefer the latter because in seeing the evil of the Emperor and finally understanding it, Anakin finally gains the strength to not only save himself but Luke as well. So, we end up with a happy little round robin of one hero saving the other and destroying evil (for a time) as the end result. And, Han and Leia go off to make new Jedi babies for Luke to train and start the next cycle.

Brian Harris: Prepare to get to know a whole bunch of women who love SW as much or maybe even more than you do. And, we won't bite, either, most of the time; just sort of nibble around the edges. My interest in SW grew out of a life-long love of science fiction and fantasy in general, though the presence of Harrison Ford didn't hurt the least little bit.

Carrie Fisher is a good writer and probably could do a decent SW book, if she set her mind to it. At least she wouldn't do what one of the actors in *Blake's 7* did when he wrote a background B7 novel and had the Lesser Magellanic Cloud plunked in orbit around one of the planets in the Solar System! When this was brought to his attention, his attitude was that he should be excused since he wasn't a scientist! Whither research? He's *not* excused!

Yvette Ghilan: Where is it written that the Emperor had taken away Anakin's memory? If it's in one of the books I haven't read yet, I stand corrected, but I don't ever remember it being written anywhere else except in fan fiction or postulated as a possibility.

I'm not so sure that David Lynch would have done such a bad job with ROTJ. He might have cut back on some of the ponderousness in some of the serious scenes and the silliness in some of the humorous ones. Perhaps he would have answered some questions like why Han and Lando were made generals (and filled in some of their background in the process) or is Leia to become a Jedi or just pass on her and Han's genes for Uncle Luke to train as future Jedi.

I wasn't all that terribly disappointed by the full-length movie version of *Dune*. My biggest complaint was that it wasn't done as a multiple-part TV movie and given the chance to unfold in a truly meaningful manner.

Asimov did *not* finish the Foundation series with *Forward the Foundation*. He finished his two-part biography of Hari Selden. The last chronological book within the series, *Foundation and Earth*, left us with Fallom, a mutant unknown quality. What is the full extent of her psychic abilities? Will she be another Mule? Will she be the savior of humanity? We'll never

know what Dr. A. intended to do with her, unless he left an outline for someone else to complete. As to the dedication (which had me in tears), it simply meant that he *knew Forward the Foundation* would be the last book he would ever write and he wanted to thank *us* for our years of loyalty to *him*. After more than 35 years of reading his books and hearing his talks at conventions, I'm definitely feeling the void.

A. G. Steyn: Never forget -- *many Bothans died to get this letterzine to you!* Yeah, really, look at 'em cross-eyed and they drop like flies. Visit scenic Botha -- Highest Deathrate in the Galaxy.

Liz Sharpe: In re your comments about editors who change writer's universes to fit their own ideas, how about the acronym IMUNY (imyoonnee): It's *My* Universe, Not Yours!

Thank you for your kind comments about The Oracle of the Other Other. All novices welcome. Our mantra is "Wedgie, Wedgie, Wedgie, Wedgie..." All right now, assume the lotus position.

I beg your pardon -- more Dead Bothan jokes. Hmph! Let's have some respect for their slimey little corpses. They died for a shipload of reasons, after all. Or something like that.

Tim Blaes: You mentioned Japanese animation in your response to Anette. At one time in history, I was forced by two people who shall remain nameless (their fannish aliases are Pat Cash and Arin Komins) to watch several Japanese animations. All that remain of these experiences are vagrant memories of exceedingly long-haired men, lots and lots of tentacles, dancing carrots, and lots of bunnies jumping out of trashcans. And, of course, hardwared galore. I do admit to a certain fondness for Patoliro and Vampire Hunter D, though.

If I remember the scene correctly, there was a huge explosion after the Emperor fell into the reactor shaft (lots of evil energy in that wrinkled little body) and the x-rays came as a result of that.

Maggie Nowakowska: How's the history coming along? Please tell S that I'm going to Wales, so she can think evil, jealous thoughts at me.

Cheryl Pryor: Sorry I did damage to your ego. It was *not* intentional. I'm just not into dolls and doll presentations, though I know many other fans are. And, I am aware that a lot of work goes into the presentations. Please enjoy yourselves, and pay no mind to my grumping.

Catriona Campbell: In my Aerie Series, Leia isn't the Crown Princess. That's why she's able to go gallivanting all over the Galaxy for the Rebellion. There was no mention in SW that I know of about whether or not Leia had any siblings of any kind (whole, half, foster, step or otherwise), so I guess it's up to us fans (again) to fill in

the empty spaces.

Catherine Churko: My best wishes to you and your father. I've been down that same scary road with my own father and know how frightening it can be.

Tina Bentrup: You actually *want* Ming to read "The True Force", even if she's managed to escape it so far? Ye gads! Torpedoes loaded? Fire One!!!

On that Forceful note, I bid you all a temporary adieu. Keep on keepin' on!

MWC RAMBLINGS

Veronica Wilson

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June 23, 1994

Hello, everyone!

Things have been nonstop in my life since the end of the semester and MWC, so I'm trying to squeeze this in before the deadline. I hope all who attended the con had a wonderful time and a safe trip back, and that non-attendees can join us next year. What a blast!

Well, I guess I should get down to business here...

Z. P.: Thanks for the compliment on my Leia stories -- I'm pleased that you enjoy them!

Tina: What's this I hear about a Vader shrine at MWC 13??? I didn't get to see it. Was there another one I missed this time? If so, shame on you for not alerting me! It was great to see and visit with you again. Drop me a line sometime.

Mary Jo: I'm sorry that you have seen so many cynical SW stories. Truthfully, I cannot think of many that have elicited the same reaction from me. Gritty or realistic stories, in my opinion, are not automatically cynical or bleak as long as characters learn or grow positively from the experience or become stronger individuals as a result. If nothing truly terrible ever happened to our SW heroes, I would soon turn my nose up in disbelief or boredom. The whole threat of evil is that it is tempting and dangerous. When our heroes are presented as totally able to resist all negative feelings and events, they are not heroes to me any more -- they are deities wholly unbelievable, IMO.

Brian: You're right; *Tales of the Jedi* is pretty good, especially when compared to some of the more recent novels. I'm looking forward to *The Dark Lords of Sith*, which will either enthrall or horrify me completely. At least since both are set centuries prior to ANH, we can accept them without having to worry much about

whether they contradict our opinions on the Jedi Knights and the Dark Lords. Whew! Missed you at MWC -- we'll see you next year, hon!

Yvette: You are right: it is quite disturbing that populates often find it easier to accept dictatorship and to look the other way when their neighbors disappear than to protest and run the risk of having themselves or their children being dragged off to prison or death. However, this pattern of accommodation and fear has repeated itself *ad infinitum*. Understanding this is not the same as condoning it, and no SE contributors that I know find dictatorships "cozy." As far as the Ewoks are concerned -- the historical parallels you pointed out can go both ways. Yes, I have heard of Vietnam, but I also know about the American Indians, the Celts, the Palestinians, and many other populations who lost to a technologically and/or numerically "superior" force. The other important thing to remember is that the Vietnamese fought their war for decades, not for an afternoon. Had Lucas gone with his earlier plan of making the Empire fight Wookiees instead of Ewoks, I could have handled the scenario with no problem at all.

Pat Grant: Hey, woman! It was great seeing you at MWC again. Thanks once more for the hospitality.

Debbie: I loved being able to visit with you and getting to know you better this year. Let me know about the wonderful "Igneous Rock" T-shirts and whether I can order one. I was intrigued by your ideas about droid production and selling -- do you see one or a few corporations having a virtual monopoly on them, or any such companies contracting willingly and secretly with the Alliance? Interesting story material... you should write about it!

Jennifer Moore: Well, did you get too lonely or bored being at the Holiday Inn until Wednesday? Ron and I stayed at Pat Grant's house Tuesday night, so we were still in town, actually, until the same day you were. We drove past the hotel Tuesday nite/Wed. morning at about 2:00 AM, and I almost stopped just to say "hi". But I figured that would just be too wicked a thing to do! Anyway, I hope all is well with you. Keep up the great poetry.

Maggie: I missed not seeing you at MWC this year. As for Rocky Horror-type viewings of SW, I actually got to go to one last March! A theater in NJ showed all three films back to back on the big screens along with trailers. It was wonderful, since the majority of the audience consisted of die-hard fen. We had about twenty people in our contingent, and all sat together so we could coordinate some of the questions and responses. Toward the end, though, things got rather strange. Everyone got tired, I guess, for ROTJ didn't end until 12:45 AM! The result was that teenage guys throughout the theater got

really rowdy and started cheering wildly every time someone got killed or hurt, and every time something exploded. I was so exhausted at the end!

Cheryl Pryor: Missed you too! Thanks for the (im)moral support for my Vader ramblings you extended in the last SE!

Marti: We have to stop talking on the phone, for then we never have anything left to say in these pages. Talk to ya soon!

A MUST FOR FANS

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June 18, 1994

Hello, everybody!

Well, it's time to send in a LoC and first off I've got to tell everybody something you all probably know already, that there's a new SF movie magazine called "Sci Fi (sic) Universe" which premiere issue has a cover story on "The Next Star Wars Trilogy (Countdown to 1997)", with the *Millennium Falcon* on the cover and lots of pictures inside, some I've never seen before (there's one that's a close-up of Luke on Tatooine, watching the space fight with his macrobinoculars and wearing a *hat!*). It also features bits of dialogue and scenes that were cut from the Second Trilogy. It speculates on it being pretty definite now that we'll see the First Trilogy in 1997. I tried to photocopy the article, but it's printed in dark colors, so didn't succeed. This issue is a must for the fans...

Now for comments from someone who has no idea how you role-play! Ann Goetz's article was fascinating. Do you mean to say that a lot of people run around in a hotel, toy-blasters drawn, trying to reach designated spots before somebody else does, and going bang-bang you're dead? No, that's can't be it... I've looked into the SW game-book and know they throw dice to simulate chance and/or randomness; I don't see any mention of throws in the article. Even with all the detailed explanations, I didn't understand what one *does* to get points...

Brian Harris: So much you say is close to my own opinion... Obi-Wan is no more a technophobe than is George Lucas himself. Someone once wrote very movingly about ANH's philosophy (in *Time* magazine, no less, and apropos a system of teaching management which uses clips of Luke and Vader in the Death Star trench) and said that SW isn't anti-technology; on the

contrary, it's the fight between good machinery and evil technology. The same can be said for Obi-Wan's viewpoint.

About the conversation of Luke and Leia on Endor, this was not just necessary, but crucial; that it seemed awkward at moments was just because some lines were taken out, probably for conciseness. For instance, "The Force is strong in my family. My father has it, I have it, and ... my sister has it", followed immediately by, "Yes, it's you, Leia" does sound awkward. What's missing is a line from Leia: "Sister! You mean your sister...?" or something like that. Same for other lines apparently without transition. And not only is the scene necessary but one of the most beautiful and moving scenes in the movies, ever. The blue night, the dreamlike music, the faces of the twins, tortured by their emotions ... a great moment, an unforgettable one. I, for one, don't care if there's some lines missing.

Tim Blaes: The pregnant woman stands, together with one or two men, in the background when Mon Mothma is briefing the Rebels in ROTJ. The female pilot is seen in just one frame, in the attack on the Death Star, also in ROTJ. By the way, she's no glamorous flygirl, just a homely warrior -- she's real.

Tim Blaes and Nora Meyers: I stand corrected. Copying someone's work and selling it *is* piracy. I wasn't aware of the selling part. Yes, you're entitled to gripe when they steal from you. I know I would be livid if someone tried to make money out of my sweat! I simply didn't know about that part. Humblest apologies.

As for Lucas, I read somewhere that in the beginning he used to require his seal of approval on all fan fiction, but had let it slide later. Today, I think he only takes care of publications that have real distribution, not just among fans. I heard that he shut down *Report from the Star Wars Generation* which boasted of being the only nationally-distributed zine. It probably was and came to Lucas' attention, and he made them shut it down *for being sleazy*.

Pat Grant: What's "Forces of the Empire"? It says "club" on the Bulletin Board. A club for doing what, role-playing?

Where have you seen Princess Leia whining and complaining? On the contrary, she never complains: not on the Death Star, when she loses her world; not on Hoth when she loses both her loves; not on Endor, when she loses her brother. She never even cries -- except once. And it's not whining to talk scathingly to a rude boor, who does not show her the respect she deserves and that she's accustomed to getting. For that matter, I'd like to see anyone I know burnshot in the arm and just gritting their teeth and saying, "It's not bad." (Not you, not me!)

A human being, man or woman, who at age twenty

goes through torture under drugs and sees her entire world destroyed before her eyes without going mad or even breaking; who at age twenty-three is in charge of an entire Rebel Base, one of the important bases; who goes to the rescue of her lover, right into the lair of the most dangerous gangster in the Galaxy; who kills an enormous monster with her bare hands and a chain; who, when wounded just says, "It's not bad"; who rushes to her friends' rescue without counting the cost; that's not a strong human being -- that's a *hero*.

As such, you're right, she can't be a role model for modern women, contemporary Earthwomen who (unless they live in Africa) live in a galaxy which compared to hers is very tame indeed. Women, moreover, most of whom still expect others to do things for them, from making repairs to making decisions.

She *can* be a role model for girls who dream of such values as aren't ordinarily taught to females in our society: courage, stoicism, resourcefulness, loyalty, physical and moral strength, and the ability to use our hands.

(By the way, anyone who agrees with the above is invited to contribute a Leia story, poem, or picture to our zine *Snowfire*.)

I'm green with envy at all the fans who are linking up with their computers. In Israel, it costs a small fortune to be allowed to connect with Internet. Even modems are financially out of my reach as yet. And speaking of electronics: does anyone know anything of a zine that was to be called *Technological Terror* and supposed to be issued in hard copy as well as in electronic form? They sent me a flyer last year, requesting material, and I sent them a story and poems. They never answered either my submission nor my further letters and, as far as I know, the magazine never came out. What's the story?

Well, that's it for now. All the best to everyone until next time. MTFBWY.



A TREMOR IN THE FORCE 8

- *"All the Marbles"*, a brand new story by Martie Benedict, art by Wanda Lybarger. It sounded too good to be true. The strange little alien had a fool-proof plan for getting rich and she was willing to cut Han and Chewie in on the money ... but their part in the scheme got a little complicated...
- *"On The Third Day"* by Carol Hines-Stroede, art by Nancy Stasulis. An Alan Patronis story. Vader is dead, the Alliance is in power, and the Dark Lord's top assassin is in custody. But when he attempts suicide, it is up to his long time friend, Dr. Jen Berani, to save his life. Little does she dream that her past associations will now come home to haunt her.
- *"Balance of Power"* by Veronica Wilson, art by Z. P. Florian. Politics consist of power plays, and it is a complicated web that Vader, Tarkin and Palpatine weave as they prepare to launch the deadliest weapon the galaxy has ever known.
- *"Mercy Mission"* by Cheree Cargill, art by Wanda Lybarger. All Han had to do was fly to an Imperial controlled planet, pick up some medical supplies and bring them back to the Alliance base. Leia positively guaranteed him that absolutely nothing would go wrong. Yeah, right...
- *"The Trial"* by Patricia Kelley, art by Catherine Churko. Luke Skywalker had saved his father's life when he pulled him from the impending explosion of the second Death Star. He didn't think about what might be ahead for Anakin once he recovered from his wounds.
- *"Heart's Blood"* by Marti Schuller, art by Melanie Guttierrez. A major Alliance espionage source has mysteriously fallen silent. Han and Luke are sent undercover to find the source and rescue the agent if possible. What they find in their search for "Heart" is enough to turn any agent's blood cold.
- *"Every Droid's Dream"* by Carolyn Golledge. The sequel to "High Seas". Jake Kellahan, the mad Corellian, is back and he and Han are in trouble again. This time they have crash-landed on a planet controlled by droids. Can they talk their way out of this one or is it up to Threepio to save their hides?
- *"Man to Man"* by Carol Hines-Stroede, art by Nancy Stasulis. There were a few things Luke had never learned about the Force. And sometimes a boy's just gotta talk to his father.
- *"Seek and Ye Shall Find"* and *"Patterns of Battle"* by Catriona Campbell, art by Gerald Crotty. Two new stories in the *Penumbra* series. While on Tatooine to rescue Han from Jabba the Hutt, Leia takes time to visit the Lars farmstead, searching for some remembrance of Luke. Meanwhile, the Son of Vader prepares for battle.
- *"Shadow Talk"* by Z. P. Florian. The Emperor has Luke Skywalker in his possession. Now the battle of wills begins.
- *"The Right Thing"* by Nora Mayers. Han and Leia's children were strong in the Force. It was now time that they be trained by Luke, but not surprisingly Han had equally strong objections.
- *"Her Ladyship"* by Marti Schuller, art by Z. P. Florian. The venerable Lady of Alderaan had outlived all her companions and only she remembered the truth about the Rebellion Against the Empire. Now she must pass her knowledge along to a new generation.

Much much more! This issue also features stories by Cat Anson, Mary Jo Fox, Yvette Ghilan, Sandi Jones, Lisa Papp, Susan Deborah Smith, Louise Turner, and Susan Zahn. Poetry by Kathryn Agel, Cheryl DeLuca, Yvette Ghilan, Jennifer Moore, Lynda Siegel, Jacqueline Taero, Veronica Wilson, and many more. Additional art by Nicola Pearce, Robert Beard, and more of your favorites.

You won't want to miss this zine! Estimated page size: 300+ pages. Scheduled publication date: Fall 1994. Now taking orders. \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Make checks payable to: Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043. Get your order in now!

Tina Bentrup
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Well, I guess I'm surviving the post-Con blues. Funny thing, we had decided to skip MWC this year. Dan had been grumping about wanting to do something else for a change, and I (the noble wife) agreed that that was reasonable. And then at the last minute we learned "there was room at the Inn." Amazing how quickly our plans changed!

Compared with the previous three years, this MWC seemed lower in energy; in particular, I felt the panels didn't generate the same excitement as in '93. Is this just me becoming an oldtimer? On the other hand, the zine scene overflowed with rich new offerings ... and *Tremor* to come! I participated in the Blaster Battle for the first time (on the Imp side, of course); Dan and I suited up as stormtroopers and had various adventures in the halls and stairwells. Long periods of sneaking and waiting interspersed with wild stampedes ("Run away! Run away!"). When it was all over and we were driving home, I felt so enriched, like Threepio after an oil bath. How gray and drear mundanity seemed in comparison. Back into the strait-jacket of conformity (sigh). I don't think there's any doubt in either of our minds that we'll be back next year. We're hooked...

Cheree: Words cannot express how bummed I was at missing your SE party. *It wasn't my fault!* I was gofering at pre-registration and my replacement never showed up. So I was stuck there for an hour and a half past the time I signed up for. But I'm *real* happy to learn that Randy's situation is looking up. The Force will surely be with you, as will the love of all us Enclavers.

Z. P.: All the way home, your Blue Jawa doll sat in my lap. I've never been big on dolls, but you may change my mind. I loved the hospital scene, especially B.J. and the Zornom; and the ice cave with Luke hanging upside down. I'm sorry the round-robin storytelling never got off the ground, but maybe we can do it next year. As I stare into the enigmatic yellow eyes of your Jawa doll, I think about voodoo and wonder if maybe you cast a spell as you were making him, a mystic gift of inspiration, perhaps? I've had a flurry of good story ideas since MWC...

I hope your "bad feeling" about fandom will prove to be as groundless as Han's foreboding about the *Millennium Falcon*. I would hate for SW fandom to become divided, just as we all seem to be coming together for the first time.

Loved your very astute comment to Fiorenzo about the paradoxes of dark and light in SW: good actions bringing about disaster, bad actions bringing about salvation. Not a simple story!

Nora Mayers: Your statement about those "different" zines was most sound and well-expressed. I agree with you completely, both in my preferences (SW as Uncle

George gave it to us) and in my belief that we should all live and let live.

Say hi to that Tusken Raider of yours.

Yvette: Glad you got a chuckle at my cartoon. I like what you said about Obi-Wan, and I loved your phrase "complex and vast and strange." He is indeed a very subtle character. When you think what a burden of guilt he must have been carrying, it is amazing that he could still be so sunny a person. Lucas originally imagined him as a crazy old wizard, and he very well *could* have gone crazy out there in the desert alone.

Some thoughts I've been having about fan writing and novelizations and all SW writings in general: After all, the original tale was in motion picture form, so anything written, whether licensed or not, is a translation into another medium. I keep thinking of the elaboration that went on in medieval Europe, where a really popular tale like the Arthurian saga was told and retold by many authors over hundreds of years. Neither Chaucer nor Shakespeare made up "original" plots; they used old stories that everybody knew, but brought new depth and interpretations to those stories. In that sense, we are all "illuminators."

Allgemeine Steyn: Vielen Dank für das Antwort. The word "Stahlriesenheld" was kind of clobbered together from the name Eisriesenwelt," which me and Danny visited during our stay in USAREUR.

Pat Grant: Loved what you had to say about the Zahn books. The "unpronounceable names" is only one aspect of why HTTE didn't work for me, but it's a crucial part. I'm glad you mentioned it.

Marti: Hats off to you and Veronica for your "tour de force" in *Shadow Jedi*. I'll have lots more to say in my LoC, but I just want you both to know I'm in 7th heaven on account of you guys.

Bet you were surprised I only bummed one weed off you at MWC.

Debbie Kittle: Okay, so my idea about Luke and Owen wasn't so great. But if Owen wanted to keep Luke "as far away as possible" from his origins, why didn't he just call Luke "son" and be done with it? (A lot depends on how old Luke was when he was brought to Tatooine.)

Trilogy Party? Listen, you Beltway types, I may be living below the Mason & Dixon, but *please* don't throw me in that briar patch. Instead, consider me part of the "Eastern Enclave" and put me on whatever mailing lists or phone trees you may have going. I lived in the DC area for 14 years all told (in 3 different installments), so I consider myself a Washingtonian emeritus.

Liz Sharpe: Loved your description of Luke's heebie-jeebies on Dagobah. Real stream-of-consciousness stuff!

Tim Blaes: Where did General Veers show up in ROTJ? Do you mean the movie or the novelization?

Though I'm certainly no expert on lava, I am what

across the ground. And there's a story about some sightseers who strolled too near Mt. Vesuvius in the 19th century and were trapped by a lava flow and died. But I don't think Anakin got fried trying to outrun lava; I think he fell into it like you said. ((Ed: Tina, there are several types of lava. The one you're thinking about is called basaltic lava because basalt is its primary ingredient, and when it flows like water, it is designated pahoehoe or ropy lava for the way it hardens. It can flow up to 40 mph. The thick, gravelly, creeping type of lava is designated aa (ah-ah) lava, which is presumably what you say when you walk on it! These are the Hawaiian terms, by the way, officially adopted by geologists. I, too am an armchair geologist, at one time studying for a degree. I still love the subject with a passion.))

I never spent the night at Stonehenge, but Dan and I did camp out in a rath (earth ring-fort) in County Clare, Ireland. There was a sign that said "No trespassing, bull on lands" -- but it looked pretty old so we took the chance. Having drunk deep of the Ulster Cycle and the Maginogion during my college years, I expected the earth to scream when we drove the tent-pegs in, but nothing untoward took place, neither bulls nor the Blessed Folk disturbed us. But I did not sleep particularly well!

Maggie: Missed you this time!

Veronica: Ditto what I said to Marti. You do good Vader!

Group counselling ... I feel a cartoon coming on...

Cheryl Pryor: Missed you, too! There were *two* Vaders this year -- Alan Falkowski and Angela Varesano. The latter was actually portraying the "darkside" Luke (a la Dark Horse comics), but when they both had their helmets on, it was pretty awesome. I did a lot of gawking. You would have loved it.

YOda as a midwife? Don't know who I'd rather have, him or Worf.

Yeah, let's hear it for those nice hubbies who humor their Vader-lusting (or Luke-lusting or Han-lusting) ladies. How am I coming along with training Dan? Well ... you wouldn't believe what happened on my last birthday. Not only did he wear the helmet, he also had the voicebox and had thrown together a pretty impressive costume. Came looming out at me from a dark room ... I promptly had hysterics... (Curtain)

Catriona and Louise: I got the address of Sebastian Shaw's agent, Vernon Conway, and wrote him asking for information, photos, clippings, etc. He wrote back saying that SS is alive and well and enjoying life. That's good to know! But he didn't respond to my request for fannish goodies, so another letter is in order. I'm wondering if his reticence is deliberate? SS is indeed elusive and I'm beginning to wonder if it isn't by design. He's written a novel called *The Christening*, which I've read. Also a privately published volume of poetry. A complex man, more than a little darkside! Keep digging, guys!

Barbara Anderson: Vader hackles ... what a great expression! One thing we can certainly agree on, ole Gridface does indeed make a "wonderful, imposing villain." I've talked to several other people who feel the same way you do about the unmasking scene. They wanted Vader to remain a villain to the end. I'm curious: how would you have liked to see the story end? Did you want Luke to kill Vader? Or Vader to die unrepentant, maybe locked in struggle with the Emperor as they both fall down the reactor shaft (shades of Reichenbach Falls)? Or were you happy with the ending, only skip the unmasking scene? Inquiring minds want to know...

Lucky you, meeting Dave Prowse! He seems to be popping up all over the country, everywhere except the South, that is (sigh).

I could run on and on, but Cheree has waited long enough for this. Have a great summer, everyone!

SPRING DEVOTEE

Catherine Churko
590 Ft. Washington Avenue #1M
New York, NY 10033

June 29, 1994

Salutations to all: Happy Spring/Summer! The Green Kingdom and Flowered Panoply -- praise it with great praise! (Just see what a 15 storm winter can do to an already avowed Spring Devotee?)

I hope everyone is at least doing okay, if not way better! Strength/healing to all going through various travails. I have been over-stressing myself every few weeks and getting my particular patterns of physical warning-signs that I am: so I managed to slow down some, avoiding even worse stuff (thank goodness). I'm in the trying-not-to-over-do it phase again and make it stick longer!

My dad is doing very well. He just had his all clear results from his earlier 6 weeks of treatment. Thanks to all for good wishes!

I was *thrilled* to have been a Fan Q nominee! Congrats to all the winners! I look forward eagerly to all the MWC tales and photos.

Cross-Worlds: Was I the only one who secretly smiled as I read the reference in Karen Ripley's *The Warden of Horses* using the locational indicator "southern enclave" as a description? ((Ed: Nope -- I giggled out loud and Karen tells me the reference was deliberate!))

Well, let's dip into a sea of possibilities ... otherwise known as LoCing Style. :-)

Z. P.: I look forward to the 3-D masterpieces you've collaborated on in photos. I'm sure Han had a "fine day" resulting in his medical unit "vacation."

As far as your prediction of a storm-on-the-horizon ...

maybe we'll be lucky and the "hurricane" will be downgraded to a more manageable thunderstorm (although we know those can be pretty nasty, too). Is not IDIC kinda applicable here, too? Anybody with friends who went through this in Trek fandom, or were there themselves ... lend us your ears opinions and historical perspective, please.

I've said in SE in some way earlier issues (comparatively speaking) something to the effect that (1) we have adult women (and men) who grew up in this Universe and we don't necessarily stay static in our ideas/belief systems -- so that more graphic erotica may appeal to us more now than earlier. Or vice versa. Or we always liked it or (so far) disliked it. (2) Since I think it (SW) falls under the space opera/mythos and, yes, science fiction (in a very broad definition), the SF (tradition) part of it is about *stretching* boundaries/experimenting (and my brains are well-nestled inside ... to that snide adage about open mindedness). If we can't do it (*no pun intended*) in SF's realm, then where? (The arts are being attacked enuf as is...) As long as we are not making a profit, and we have agreed ourselves as creative people to write on these subjects *for ourselves* in certain ways ... I say, sure. Maybe editors could tag an asterisk in a table of contents for graphic content that may offend some people, then they'll be forewarned. Heck, they tag book descriptions in the Science Fiction Book Club, why not here? I, too, hope it *doesn't* come down to solely separated zine categories.

Tammy: In one of the original full length Marvel SW comic books, in order for C3PO to save Luke from an adversary, he states something like "this *isn't* in my programming, but..." It's possible that some droids become/are more sentient than their builders intended. (In this case, 3PO really *consciously* choosing to save Luke.)

Brian: Thanks for your interpretation of Kenobi's view of Vader/Anakin. I refuse to condemn Ben for his actions until I see the Prequels that will enlighten us to the complex history/relationship and downfall of their friendship and mentorship.

And as far as your Write-by-Zappa suggestion ... hmmm ... could turn out like a blend of the wildly inventive humor of Z. P., Karen Ripley, and Robert Scheckly, I'd venture to say, pardner.

Nora: Thank you for your freedom to write/read opinions, especially since you don't care for the particular type of material being discussed.

Yvette: While I by default tend to view Han as we first meet him, as a criminal ... I haven't thought that aspect out too far. I found your ideas about smuggling under a criminal *government* enlightening to view him from the POV.

"Ed": (re Yvette to Jacqueline) ... not to mention ... "I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream" by Harlan Ellison. Talk about computer/AI induced paranoia!

A.G.: (aka the Agitator) Were you having a good time with your italic mode ... lots of fun meanderings. :-)

Debbie-the-K: Ya know that 3 inches of snow 3 days

after Christmas you mentioned? Huh? That was day #2 of my 2 day mini-vacation in DC. (Oh, the joy of having my planned walking tour ground to a near c-r-a-w-l.) While I *do* admit it made for some holiday-ish picture post card photos, I hope if I'm ever in DC at Christmas/New Year's time again, it will be under non-snow (and no freezing rain, either!) conditions.

Hi, anyway, and long live the Eastern Enclave! I also believe the Imps thought the Ewoks were insignificant creatures incapable of doing them all but the most pinprick of harms. So their *utter* arrogance *was* their weakness/downfall.

Marti: Hi. Hope things are doing okay. I'll look forward to your stories in the few zines I'll be getting. As for "smut" -- just say "yes!" :-)

Jeannie: I hope the *rest* of the winter was easier for you. I was lucky -- after 3 years of accident-induced terror about snow/ice, I got over it on the first storm of the season (phew!).

It's certainly possible those Crays could be for souped-up special SW errects. Clone War Super Battles! And a smoking volcanic planet, anyone?

Liz: Hi ho, hi ho! Thanks for the artistic well-wishes.

Wow -- didn't know that about hollowed hills. I loved your idea of the psychological/physical challenge a reversed climatic Dagobah would present to whatever surrounding a student was normally used to. Except -- what if there was more than one student from different climes? (Grin -- really not trying to "monkey-wrench" your idea). And how are the tomatoes and petunias doing?

Liz and Cheree: I say, go for the gold trash! *Far Realms Sex* and *Sux* lives! I read *JediStarDarkFalconKnight* only 6 months into fandom/zines in '87 and I'm *sure* I missed most of the zine/fandom in-jokes back then!

Tim: Well, I've had the fall-into-the-low-volcanic-pit in "story board" since 1984 (pre-SWzinedom for *moi*). Not quite Hawaii style volcanoes -- but good enough.

Carolyn: Hey, mate -- I didn't even know you'd gone "under the knife". I hope you've regained a lot of the health you've missed.

Back to Cheree: Take the time you need to regroup. A *bazillion* thanks for your national/international/community-building through SE. (Before the Internet -- there was LoCdom!)

Cheers, y'all!

ED'S NOTE: You've probably noticed something strange about the page numbering of this issue. That's because I screwed up! After finishing up this issue and taking it to the printer, I was plowing through the huge stack of mail on my desk, filling zine orders -- and what to my wondering eyes should appear but Tina and Cathy's letters!! Eekkkk!! So I had to hurriedly do an addendum. Apologies to all!

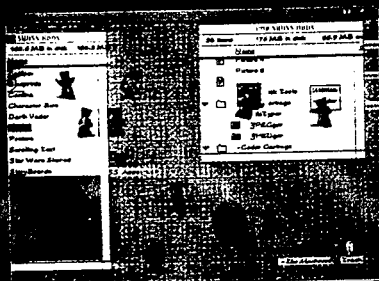


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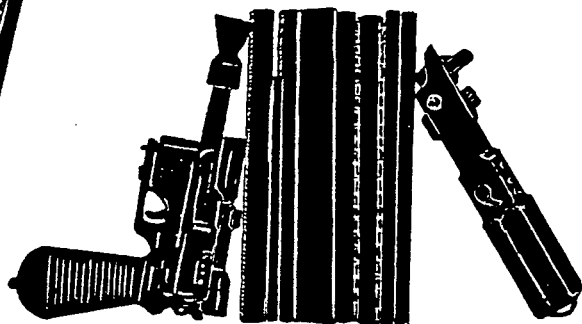
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Cover by Walsh. Laser printed, photocopied, GBC bound. \$16.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$20.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WHO'S SCRUFFY LOOKIN'? is a new SW zine now looking for submissions. Stories, poetry and filks about Han Solo are being solicited. Stories may be set in any timeframe from pre-ANH to post-ROTJ. SASE for information or submissions guidelines to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ZINE SCENE. Back issues. Sample copies/back issues of Zine Scene are currently available from May 1992 and May 1993. \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for both. New issues, when available, are \$5.00 each. I am also accepting submissions of reviews (in any fandoms) and articles for publication in future issues. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. If ordering overseas, please send an SAE + 2 IRCs first in order to obtain your correct postage cost. Always include a SASE with inquiries. On-line address: Ashton2@aol.com.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

ANOTHER SKY... #6. Already almost half full. We're still looking for art, poetry, and fiction. Luke or original "people". No Han-starring, slash or profanity. SASE Lorrie Cherry, 4137 Ames Blvd., Lot 83, Marerro, LA 70072-9998.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Featuring the return of Martie Benedict, back after an absence of over 5 years! Also material by Cat Anson, Catriona Campbell, Cheree Cargill, Yvette Ghilan, Carolyn Golledge, Carol Hines-Stroede, Sandi Jones, Nora Mayers, Marti Schuller, Jacqueline Taero, Louise Turner, Veronica Wilson, and more of your favorite writers. Art by Catherine Churko, Gerald Crotty, Z. P. Florian, Wanda Lybarger, Melanie Guttierrez, Nancy Stasulis, and more! Now taking orders. \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE #8. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out January 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

BELOW THE SURFACE #9. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out May 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #4 now open for submissions. SASE for detailed submission guidelines. Submission deadline: Oh, why not December 10, 1993? Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue. I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL! A new zine planning a 1995 MediaWest debut is looking for story submissions and artists willing to do some illustrations. We are basically a comedy/light hearted adventure zine (with a name like that what else could we be!!!) but we won't say no to any 'good' story even if it isn't a comedy. Please contact: Judith G. Yuenger, 901 Meadowcrest Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60525-2530 or Marti Schuller, 415 SE Annette, Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS! A new SW zine with a mid-Atlantic flavor (hopefully!) is now open for submissions. Looking for fiction, articles, poetry, filks, art and misc. items. G to R rating. No slash/same sex. Already featuring Schuller, Florian, Dutech, Wilson, Campbell and Turner, plus some excellent new talent! Art by Crotty, Florian. New writers and artists welcome! (Hello, Europe, are you there?) Catriona Campbell/Louise Turner c/o 19 Eastern Crescent, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire KA25 6JH, Scotland.

IMPERIUM #5 is now open for submissions of fiction, art, poetry and filks. For more information on guidelines and all that, SASE Arwen Rosenbaum, 605 West End Avenue, Apt. GF, New York, NY 10024-1608, or via e-mail to ARWENR@AOL.COM.

ONLY HOPE #2 is now accepting submissions of art, fiction, poetry and 'toons. Publication date set for July/Aug. '94. And we are looking for the unique, unusual, and imaginative! For submission guidelines, please contact Cheryl DeLuca, 4181 Rockwood Rd., Mississauga, Ont. Canada L4W 1L6, or Tammy Olsen, Box 153, Benton Road, North Haverhill, NH 03744. New writers and artists always welcome!

REMOTE CONTROL #4. Multi-media zine is now open for submissions of fiction, filks, poetry and artwork. Publication date is May 1994. SASE for more information to Kathy

Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SCARECROW'S DREAM. Genzine dedicated to exploring the many characters played by Bob Dowdell. Now accepting submissions -- do you have a story from *Stoney Burke* that needs a home? How about a *240-Robert*, *The Initiation*, *Skin Deep* or *Terror in the Sky*? The only requirement is that the story center on the character Bob played in the movie or TV episode. No gratuitous sex and no "/" situations will be accepted. Anticipating publication in May 1994, in time for MWC 14. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SERRATED SEVEN #2. Now accepting submissions and deposits for this B7 genzine with a hurt/comfort slant. Issue #1 did not contain adult stories, but I would not be averse to expanding the format to include adult if the right stories come along. If interested in submitting, please SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton2@aol.com.

SNOWFIRE: Celebrating Princess Leia. Rally behind her Worship's cause and submit your stories, filks, art, cartoons, and hairstyling tips today! If not today, then sometime before January 1, 1995. Publication still set for May 1995. Everyone's submissions will get a fair shake. Strong writing skills, good artistic ability, and especially a positive attitude toward the princess (don't forget a sense of fun) are whatw really count. Contact: Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

SOUTHERN COMFORT #8.5. Now accepting submissions and deposits on this B7 adult zine. Submissions of a straight or slash nature, any characters are acceptable. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton2@aol.com.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #10. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the B7 genzine. I'm already holding a few great submissions! If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton2@aol.com.

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #3. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the SW genzine. That's right! I'm reviving my very first zine. All characters and situations are welcome. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton2@aol.com.

TATOOINE DREAMS. New Luke zine planned for Spring 1994. Needs submissions. Keep it clean, please. For info, SASE Kymm August, 42 Heron St., Long Beach, NY 11561.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #4 is now open for submissions of Classic Trek piecees. Issue #5 is now open for submissions of TNG and DS9 material. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE FORCE'S LIGHT #2. Open for submissions. Please send long SASE to Ed Schodde, P.O. Box 10142, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-0142.

THE ORMAND FACTOR. Volume One of a two-volume post-ROTJ novel by Louise Turner, illustrated by Gerald Crotty. As recommended by Campbell and Dutech in SE #34! Join Wedge Antilles and Luke Skywalker as they struggle against the remnants of the Imperial forces in a race to discover the truth behind old spacer's rumors of an alien power source in the Outer Rim. For a detailed plot synopsis and costs, please send an SAE/International Reply Coupon to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Copies will be 180 pp. in length, laser-printed and photocopied, and spiral bound. Available from December 1993, with Volume 2 to follow early in 1994.

WE GOT ANOTHER ONE! Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork for second issue of *Real Ghostbusters* zine. Action-adventure as well as relationship pieces are suitable, but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

YEARS OF FIELDWORK. Now taking reservations (\$5.00 plus SASE) for this collection of Indiana Jones fiction from the "O.S.S." series by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. Anticipated publication date is early winter 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

OTHER WORLDS

ART PRINTS -- Full color prints of the covers of *A Tremor in the Force*. TF#5 -- Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. TF#6 -- Luke by Melanie Gutierrez. TF#7 -- Vader by Nancy Stasulis, bareback Han by Dianne Smith. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CLEARANCE SALE: Luke & Leia t-shirts. Double portrait in original art by Cheree Cargill. Black ink on cream, yellow or pale blue shirts. Available in L, XL and XXL sizes. Please state first and second color preferences. Wolf t-shirt. White ink on black shirts. Original art by Cheree Cargill. Sizes M-XXL. SE t-shirt. Only one left: size Large, navy with design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$5.00 (\$6.00 XXL sizes). Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES needs donations of out of print zines of all fandoms--*V*, *UNCLE*, *ST*, *Beauty and Beast*, multi-media, you name it. For info on how we operate, SASE Ming Wathne, Curator--Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

ECLECTICON! A new con featuring the worlds of fanzines and media fandom -- three days of fandom, fun and friends! No guests, no autograph lines, but plenty of good stuff! Come

browse our dealers' room full of zines, still photos and other goodies, hang out in the video room, cruise the art show, spend bucks in the art and charity auctions, donate to our food bank, and immerse yourself in our four tracks of panels or our independent discussion groups. When and where -- November 4-5-6, 1994, at the Ramada Hotel, Newark International Airport, Routes 1&9 South, Newark, NJ. Memberships: Attending: \$35 until 11/3/94 \$40 at the door Single day memberships: Friday -- \$15; Saturday \$20; Sunday \$10 Supporting: \$8 at all times. Make checks payable to: ECLECTICON, c/o Kathryn Agel, 9 -11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nora L. Mayers
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Columbia, MD 21044

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Photos in this issue are courtesy of Tim Blaes, Debbie Kittle and Nora Mayers.

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Cheree Cargill
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